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HOUSE MEMORIAL 73

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

William "Bill" R. Rehm

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMITTEE  
AND THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE DEALING WITH SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY ISSUES TO STUDY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUCLEAR POWER  
PLANT IN THE FOUR CORNERS AREA.

WHEREAS, nuclear power has the advantages of meeting  
decarbonization goals, bolstering electrical power grid  
reliability and providing jobs and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, nuclear energy produces more than one-half of the  
nation's emissions-free electricity and provides a constant  
source of power to an electrical power grid; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear industry supports almost five hundred  
thousand jobs in the United States and contributes an estimated  
sixty billion dollars (\$60,000,000,000) to the nation's gross  
domestic product; and

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1           WHEREAS, nuclear power plants can employ up to seven  
2 hundred workers with salaries that are thirty percent higher  
3 than the local average; and

4           WHEREAS, there is a surge of interest in the development  
5 of nuclear energy in the United States, as evidenced by the  
6 more than one hundred nuclear power-related bills introduced by  
7 state legislatures this year; and

8           WHEREAS, small modular reactors, which are currently under  
9 development, have added benefits over traditional nuclear power  
10 plants, such as a relatively small physical footprint, reduced  
11 capital investment, the ability to be sited in locations not  
12 possible for larger nuclear plants and provisions for  
13 incremental power additions; and

14           WHEREAS, developing nuclear energy has the benefit of  
15 accessing federal dollars from programs seeking to incentivize  
16 nuclear power, including from the federal Inflation Reduction  
17 Act of 2022, and accessing tax credits for nuclear energy  
18 production and the siting of a nuclear power plant on a  
19 brownfield site, former coalfield site or former coal plant;  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, the Four Corners area could support the  
22 development of nuclear power because there is access to water,  
23 there are no natural disasters and uranium is available in the  
24 region;

25           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

.225319.1

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the radioactive  
2 and hazardous materials committee and the interim legislative  
3 committee dealing with science and technology issues be  
4 requested to study the construction of a nuclear power plant in  
5 the Four Corners area during the 2023 interim; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the members of the radioactive and hazardous  
8 materials committee and the interim legislative committee  
9 dealing with science and technology issues no later than June  
10 1, 2023.