

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 1

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

This document may incorporate amendments proposed by a committee, but not yet adopted, as well as amendments that have been adopted during the current legislative session. The document is a tool to show amendments in context and cannot be used for the purpose of adding amendments to legislation.

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO JOINTLY STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPEDITE FOREST RESTORATION THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's forests have a high risk of wildfire and require significant thinning and watershed restoration to reduce hazards and protect communities, source waters and

.229047.2AIC February 25, 2025 (4:32pm)

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete
Amendments: new = →bold, blue, highlight↔
delete = →bold, red, highlight, strikethrough↔

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete
Amendments: new = →bold, blue, highlight←
delete = →bold, red, highlight, strikethrough←

ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, forest and watershed restoration generates wood byproducts that are costly to process and remove without viable markets, which limits the pace and scale of restoration activities necessary to reduce wildfire risk; and

WHEREAS, state incentives are needed to drive innovation in wood utilization, create markets that promote sustainable tree thinning and reduce the overall cost of forest and watershed restoration for the public good; and

WHEREAS, recommendations are needed to encourage investment in the wood utilization sector and accelerate forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural resources department and the economic development department be requested to study and jointly develop recommendations regarding:

A. what business opportunities are missing in New Mexico that are needed to develop a fully functioning **SCONC**, **sustainable** **SCONC** wood products economy, including to retain workforce and succession planning;

B. what incentives, legal actions, financial mechanisms and partnerships are needed to reduce logistical costs of moving wood byproducts from remote forests to regional processing facilities and increase the economic viability of

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete
Amendments: new = →bold, blue, highlight←
delete = →bold, red, highlight, strikethrough←

New Mexico's wood utilization sector;

C. what programs, policies, laws and practices exist in other states that have successful wood utilization programs that can be adapted to New Mexico's unique economic and environmental context; ~~SCONC~~→and←~~SCONC~~

D. what new or existing state programs and incentives can be leveraged to foster industry expansion, attract capital investment, create jobs and ensure local and state contributions yield a strong return on investment through performance-based evaluations; and

~~SCONC~~→E. what incentives, legal actions and regulations are needed to ensure healthy forests that will reduce wildfire risk; and←~~SCONC~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and natural resources department and the economic development department report findings and conclusions to the appropriate interim legislative committees dealing with natural resources and economic development by September 1, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources and the secretary of economic development for appropriate distribution.