

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 2

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pat Woods

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE
CREATION OF A WILDFIRE STUDY GROUP TO STUDY AND DEVELOP A
COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE WILDFIRES IN NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has endured yet another wildfire
season, among the most devastating in state history; and

WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that the priorities of
first responders, local, state and federal officials,
utilities, landowners and other stakeholders are aligned; and

WHEREAS, this is an opportunity to prioritize safety,
preservation of life and protection of property and animals by
taking action to prevent catastrophic wildfires from occurring
and quickly and efficiently extinguish wildfires that do occur;
and

.229927.3

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 WHEREAS, these priorities can be more easily attained by
2 providing strategic state support to public and private
3 wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts; and

4 WHEREAS, a study group would be a collaborative effort to
5 align activities in support of forest management, community
6 protection, utilities and state efforts;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
8 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
9 requested to direct the creation of a study group that will
10 include stakeholders to study, develop and make recommendations
11 to the appropriate interim legislative committee for a
12 comprehensive statewide approach to address, avoid and mitigate
13 wildfires, including recommendations for necessary funding and
14 proposed legislation; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the study group
16 in developing recommendations include identifying areas that
17 are most at risk for catastrophic wildfires; ensuring that
18 emergency response plans are developed with stakeholders,
19 including utilities, for the highest-risk areas; identifying
20 the best policies, practices and investments to mitigate
21 wildfire risk, with a focus on vegetation management; providing
22 direct and effective outreach for wildfire mitigation policies,
23 practices, investments and weather-related causation;
24 facilitating collaboration among utilities, first responders,
25 emergency management and incident response, government agencies

.229927.3

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 and Indian nations, tribes and pueblos during wildfires;
2 identifying support mechanisms for affected communities,
3 individuals, businesses and utilities in the aftermath of
4 wildfire devastation and restoration of infrastructure; and
5 proposing public policies to support safe, sustainable and
6 affordable utility service to residents and businesses before,
7 during and after a catastrophic wildfire; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group be composed of
9 a minimum of eleven members, one each appointed from the
10 following agencies and stakeholder entities: the forestry
11 division of the energy, minerals and natural resources
12 department; the energy conservation and management division of
13 the energy, minerals and natural resources department; the
14 state department of justice; the homeland security and
15 emergency management department; the Indian affairs department;
16 the public regulation commission; the New Mexico association of
17 counties; the New Mexico municipal league; investor-owned New
18 Mexico electric utility companies; and the New Mexico rural
19 electric cooperatives; and a public member with expertise in
20 wildfire science and technology appointed by the secretary of
21 energy, minerals and natural resources; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
23 council be requested to engage the forestry division of the
24 energy, minerals and natural resources department to coordinate
25 the activities of the study group, including meeting at regular

.229927.3

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 intervals, and to write a final report detailing the findings
2 and recommendations of the study group; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group be requested
4 to present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate
5 interim legislative committee by November 1, 2025; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
8 council; the governor; the attorney general; the secretary of
9 energy, minerals and natural resources; the chair of the public
10 regulation commission; the secretary of Indian affairs; the
11 secretary of homeland security and emergency management; the
12 president of the New Mexico rural electric cooperatives; the
13 presidents and chief executive officers of the investor-owned
14 electric utility companies in New Mexico; the executive
15 director of the New Mexico association of counties; and the
16 executive director of the New Mexico municipal league.