

underscored 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 16

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pat Woods and Pat Boone

A MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF EMINENT DOMAIN TO ESTABLISH
A NATIONAL INTEREST ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR IN EASTERN
NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the United States department of energy has
designated a substantial portion of land stretching across
eastern New Mexico as a potential location for the
"southwestern grid connector national interest transmission
corridor"; and

WHEREAS, the national interest electric transmission
corridor proposed for New Mexico is intended to facilitate the
development of an electric transmission system aimed at meeting
national energy demands; and

WHEREAS, spanning between three to fifteen miles in width,
this corridor seeks to pave the way for transmission developers

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

1 to build vital infrastructure for energy delivery and storage;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, heavy industrial transmission infrastructure and
4 dangerous battery storage for renewable energy could be
5 developed within this corridor and nearby areas; and

6 WHEREAS, while the designation of this corridor is
7 intended to enhance the nation's energy grid and support
8 renewable energy growth, many are raising concerns about
9 potential risks to local communities and the environment; and

10 WHEREAS, the designation of this corridor in eastern New
11 Mexico has the potential to adversely affect farming, ranching
12 and small businesses throughout the region, with particular
13 concern over the use of eminent domain, which would grant the
14 government or private entities the authority to seize land from
15 its owners without their consent; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico's farming and ranching communities are
17 central to the state's economy and cultural identity, providing
18 agricultural products, livestock and open spaces that sustain
19 local businesses, jobs and traditions; and

20 WHEREAS, the use of eminent domain to acquire land for the
21 construction of transmission lines would force farmers and
22 ranchers to give up valuable land that has been passed down
23 through generations, potentially disrupting long-established
24 operations, displacing family-run businesses and diminishing
25 economic security for thousands of families in rural areas; and

.230574.3

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

1 WHEREAS, the designation of a national interest electric
2 transmission corridor in eastern New Mexico would impose
3 significant burdens on small businesses, particularly those in
4 rural areas that rely on the local land for their livelihoods.
5 The loss of land or access to essential resources could
6 endanger the viability of these businesses, many of which do
7 not have the financial resources or operational capacity to
8 withstand the disruption that may be caused by the designation
9 of a national interest electric transmission corridor in
10 eastern New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, farming and ranching operations rely heavily on
12 the land for grazing, crop production, water access and
13 infrastructure. The establishment of electric transmission
14 lines, towers and associated infrastructure on private
15 agricultural land could pose a serious threat to soil health,
16 water resources and the ability to conduct business in a way
17 that aligns with sustainable practices, leading to long-term
18 financial damage and ecological harm; and

19 WHEREAS, farming and ranching families are often forced
20 into difficult decisions when faced with eminent domain,
21 including selling off parts of their land or accepting
22 compensation that does not accurately reflect the loss of their
23 heritage, business or livelihood; and

24 WHEREAS, small businesses in rural areas depend on the
25 stability of their local economy, which is tied to the ability

.230574.3

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

1 of farmers and ranchers to operate effectively. The
2 designation of a national interest electric transmission
3 corridor in eastern New Mexico could increase operating costs,
4 lead to land fragmentation and reduce land values, potentially
5 resulting in the closure or relocation of many small
6 businesses; and

7 WHEREAS, the property tax revenues in several eastern New
8 Mexico counties will be negatively affected by the land being
9 acquired by the federal government via eminent domain; and

10 WHEREAS, the use of eminent domain for transmission
11 projects resulting from the designation of a national interest
12 electric transmission corridor in eastern New Mexico could
13 potentially benefit large corporations and government agencies
14 at the expense of local communities and private landowners,
15 with minimal direct benefit to those who are most impacted; and

16 WHEREAS, farmers, ranchers and small business owners are
17 the backbone of New Mexico's economy and should be supported in
18 their efforts to maintain their businesses, protect their land
19 and contribute to the continued success and prosperity of the
20 state; and

21 WHEREAS, there is a need for comprehensive and fair
22 alternatives to eminent domain that would balance the need for
23 infrastructure development with the protection of local
24 economies, landowners' rights and sustainable agricultural
25 practices;

.230574.3

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

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
2 OF NEW MEXICO that the senate strongly oppose the southwestern
3 grid connector national interest transmission corridor and the
4 use of eminent domain in eastern New Mexico, as it threatens
5 the viability of farming, ranching and small businesses; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate call on all
7 policymakers, agencies and developers to reconsider and avoid
8 the use of eminent domain to establish a national interest
9 electrical transmission corridor in eastern New Mexico and to
10 instead seek alternative solutions that prioritize local
11 economies, respect private property rights and ensure the
12 continued vitality of New Mexico's agricultural and small
13 business sectors; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate urge lawmakers and
15 decision makers to work with impacted communities to develop
16 solutions that respect landowners' rights while meeting energy
17 infrastructure needs through collaborative, noninvasive means
18 that do not jeopardize local livelihoods or cultural heritage;
19 and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate urge the members of
21 the New Mexico congressional delegation to oppose and take
22 appropriate action to prevent the United States department of
23 energy from using eminent domain to seize private property in
24 eastern New Mexico for use as an electric transmission
25 corridor; and

.230574.3

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the United States secretary of energy, the New Mexico congressional delegation and the governor.