

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A RENEWABLE FUELS TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE, PROMOTE AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR THE PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF RENEWABLE FUELS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, while New Mexico currently enjoys abundant oil, coal and natural gas resources that greatly contribute to the state's economy and to state government's revenues, these energy sources are finite and ultimately may be exhausted; and

WHEREAS, the United States' heavy dependence on foreign sources of oil renders the country extremely vulnerable to price spikes and fluctuations in international production; and

WHEREAS, renewable fuel sources, or fuels derived from agricultural and forest waste products that meet American society for testing and materials specifications containing ethanol and biodiesel, can provide for rural economic development, a sustainable energy future and reduced air emissions; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2005, the governor issued an executive order that requires the increased use of renewable fuels in New Mexico, making state government responsible for facilitating and reaching the goal of the fifteen percent renewable fuels usage for state fleets; and

WHEREAS, the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, recently

enacted by congress, provides for a national renewable fuels standard that mandates that seven and one-half billion gallons of renewable fuels be consumed annually by 2012, which will require significant expansion of ethanol and biodiesel production in the future and will provide significant benefits to the economy; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico Abengoa bioenergy corporation operates an ethanol production facility in Portales, New Mexico, and has expanded ethanol production capacity from fifteen to thirty million gallons per year; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico currently is ranked seventh in the nation for milk production and eighth in the nation for cheese production, and dairy waste has significant potential for use in renewable fuels development; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's agricultural industry has the capability for and interest in participating in the renewable fuel initiative; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's congressional delegation, including the senators who serve on the United States senate committee on energy and natural resources, has a unique opportunity to promote policies in federal energy legislation to benefit New Mexico and the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources be requested to convene a renewable fuels

task force to evaluate the potential for New Mexico agricultural entities to contribute to the production of renewable fuels in-state, to develop strategies to enhance the development of the renewable fuels industry in New Mexico and to recommend legislation for renewable fuels standards for 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the renewable fuels task force include the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources or the secretary's designee; the secretary of taxation and revenue or the secretary's designee; the director of the New Mexico department of agriculture or the director's designee; representatives from petroleum marketers and refineries, the dairy and agricultural and forest industries, the renewable fuels industry, the clean energy nonprofit community and automobile dealers; and any other entities deemed necessary by the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the renewable fuels task force report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate legislative interim committee by October 1, 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor, the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation, the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources, the secretary of taxation and revenue,

the director of the New Mexico department of agriculture and
the New Mexico legislative council.