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SENATE MEMORIAL 42

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Howie Morales

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY
BENEFITS AND BARRIERS TO DEVELOPING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES
AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF
RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION OF
ELECTRICITY IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has abundant, untapped renewable
energy resources, including wind, solar and geothermal energy,
that could be used to generate electricity; and

WHEREAS, a variety of institutional, governmental and
economic barriers to the development of New Mexico's renewable
energy resources exists, including a lack of infrastructure,
market barriers and perceived high costs of development; and

WHEREAS, demand for electricity generated from renewable
energy resources currently exceeds the existing capacity to

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1 generate electricity using renewable energy resources; and

2 WHEREAS, the lines for the transmission of electricity and
3 other renewable energy initiatives under consideration within
4 New Mexico, such as wind turbines and solar array capabilities,
5 have the potential to interfere with the missions and training
6 exercises performed at White Sands missile range and other
7 military installations; and

8 WHEREAS, the development of renewable energy resources to
9 generate electricity in New Mexico has the potential to create
10 additional tax revenues for the state and for local
11 governments; and

12 WHEREAS, development of the state's renewable energy
13 resources could allow New Mexicans access to sufficient energy
14 to sustain their quality of life while reducing their reliance
15 upon nonrenewable energy resources and thereby preserving a
16 safe, healthy environment; and

17 WHEREAS, residents of New Mexico as well as energy
18 consumers beyond New Mexico's borders would benefit from the
19 development of renewable energy resources and an increase in
20 the capacity of electrical transmission utilizing renewable
21 energy resources;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the economic development department be
24 requested to identify the benefits and barriers to developing
25 renewable energy resources and make recommendations to promote

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1 the development and use of renewable energy resources and
2 associated transmission of electricity in New Mexico; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the economic development
4 department consult with the public regulation commission, the
5 New Mexico renewable energy transmission authority, the energy,
6 minerals and natural resources department, the military base
7 planning commission, the state land office, the United States
8 bureau of land management, electric utilities operating in New
9 Mexico, independent transmission companies, United States
10 military installations in New Mexico, conservation and
11 environmental organizations, renewable energy generator
12 companies and others to assemble the requested information and
13 recommendations; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of the findings and
15 recommendations of the economic development department be
16 presented to the appropriate interim legislative committee by
17 October 2012; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of economic development.