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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Brian F. Egolf, Jr.

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE TO REVIEW ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CAPACITY IN NEW MEXICO FOR RENEWABLE AND CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico policymakers possess the ability to create jobs statewide, to promote economic development in rural areas, to increase general fund revenues and to contribute to the energy independence and security of the United States by significantly increasing the development and production of electricity from both renewable and conventional sources in the state; and

WHEREAS, the major obstacle to the development of New Mexico's full potential of electricity generation is the lack of an integrated intrastate electricity transmission system

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1 that is properly planned with regional considerations in mind;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico occupies a unique geographic position  
4 in relation to the electric transmission system in North  
5 America, which is composed of the western interconnection,  
6 eastern interconnection and the electric reliability council of  
7 Texas, through which electricity will soon be transmitted  
8 throughout North America; and

9 WHEREAS, with deregulation of the electric industry, the  
10 planning and designing of transmission projects have not been  
11 closely coordinated with either the needs of utilities or the  
12 economic or social goals of the state; and

13 WHEREAS, federal regulations are requiring states to plan  
14 and develop regional electricity transmission systems with  
15 neighboring states; and

16 WHEREAS, in order for New Mexico to develop its vast  
17 energy resources and take advantage of its geographic location,  
18 New Mexico policymakers must ensure that any plan includes an  
19 integrated electricity transmission system designed for the  
20 twenty-first century and that such a plan provides for a fair  
21 and rational approach to allocating associated costs for the  
22 system's construction;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be  
25 requested to direct the appropriate committee of the

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1 legislature to assess and review electric transmission capacity  
2 in New Mexico for renewable and conventional energy sources;  
3 and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate committee be  
5 requested to:

6 A. seek comment from all stakeholders;

7 B. identify existing electric transmission capacity  
8 in New Mexico;

9 C. identify existing unobligated electric  
10 transmission capacity in New Mexico;

11 D. identify planned electric transmission projects  
12 in New Mexico, both intrastate and interstate;

13 E. identify planned or announced electricity  
14 generation projects in New Mexico;

15 F. identify additional electricity generating  
16 projects that could be developed in New Mexico if sufficient  
17 electric transmission capacity existed to get the electricity  
18 to energy markets;

19 G. identify the required gathering systems or other  
20 electric transmission line projects that will be required to  
21 maximize the ability to get electricity generated from New  
22 Mexico sources into the intrastate and interstate markets;

23 H. identify alternatives for financing of the  
24 recommended electricity infrastructure; and

25 I. make a final report, together with

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1 recommendations, to the legislature and to the governor by  
2 December 1, 2013; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
5 council.

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