

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
3 DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, THE INDIAN AFFAIRS  
4 DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
5 TO CONVENE A JOINT TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC AND  
6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE INCREASE IN NATURAL GAS FLARING  
7 AND VENTING IN NEW MEXICO.

8  
9 WHEREAS, the energy sector is important to New Mexico's  
10 economy; and

11 WHEREAS, recent reports suggest that New Mexico  
12 taxpayers have lost out on an estimated forty-two million  
13 seven hundred thousand dollars (\$42,700,000) in royalty  
14 revenue since 2009 due to increased wasted natural gas in the  
15 oil- and gas-producing regions of the state; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States bureau of land management  
17 typically does not charge royalties, or it undercharges  
18 royalties, for gas that is leaked, flared or vented; and

19 WHEREAS, nearly forty-five percent, or five hundred  
20 fifty-eight of one thousand two hundred forty-eight, of all  
21 bureau of land management applications to flare royalty-free  
22 in the entire United States in 2014 came from New Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, a recent national aeronautics and space  
24 administration study discovered a huge methane plume above  
25 the four corners region, where much of the state's flaring

1 activity occurs; and

2 WHEREAS, *The Denver Post* recently reported on a jobs and  
3 technology boom taking place in Colorado, as new companies  
4 form to support compliance with Colorado's new air quality  
5 and methane waste rules; and

6 WHEREAS, estimates suggest as much as ninety percent of  
7 the natural gas being wasted could be captured or put to use,  
8 and the natural gas lost in New Mexico in 2012 could have met  
9 the home heating needs of every home in the state for  
10 December and January; and

11 WHEREAS, increased flaring activity and energy  
12 development may encroach on the landscape near cultural  
13 assets such as Chaco Canyon national historic park; and

14 WHEREAS, many of the areas where flaring occurs are  
15 Native American lands, and allowing royalty-free flaring of  
16 what is essentially a Native American-owned resource also  
17 takes revenue directly from tribal governments;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural  
20 resources department, the department of environment, the  
21 Indian affairs department and the department of finance and  
22 administration be requested to convene a task force to study  
23 the impacts of increased oil and gas industry flaring on the  
24 state's finances and environment; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested

1 to report its findings to the interim legislative committee  
2 that studies economic and rural development, and to the  
3 Indian affairs, water and natural resources and revenue  
4 stabilization and tax policy committees; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of the task  
6 force be shared with New Mexico's congressional delegation  
7 and with relevant units of the United States department of  
8 the interior, including the bureau of land management and the  
9 bureau of Indian affairs; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
12 resources, the secretary of environment, the secretary of  
13 Indian affairs, the secretary of finance and administration  
14 and the New Mexico congressional delegation. \_\_\_\_\_

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