

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 18

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUNZIA TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT RELATIVE TO EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE.

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2015, the bureau of land management of the United States department of the interior issued a record of decision approving a right of way for the SunZia transmission line project, which consists of the construction, operation and maintenance of two parallel five hundred kilovolt transmission lines located on a combination of federal, state and private land in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the SunZia transmission line project would traverse five hundred fifteen miles through New Mexico and Arizona to provide power to western cities; and

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1           WHEREAS, the transmission line affects the testing and  
2 evaluation mission conducted at White Sands missile range by  
3 limiting the ability of the military to test long-range  
4 overland projectiles and conduct other tests in the northern  
5 extension area; and

6           WHEREAS, the United States department of defense agreed to  
7 a mitigation proposal, which was a compromise that will still  
8 limit the capability of and permanently degrade the White Sands  
9 missile range; and

10          WHEREAS, the path of the SunZia transmission line project  
11 has moved since the issuance of the final environmental impact  
12 study, and the project now includes a greater dispersion of the  
13 line on state and private land, as well as the burial of  
14 multiple sections of the transmission line and the construction  
15 of substations; and

16          WHEREAS, the decision to bury three sections of the SunZia  
17 transmission line project on greater amounts of private land  
18 will change the environmental impact of the project; and

19          WHEREAS, New Mexico has a long and storied history of  
20 military innovation and technology, as well as energy  
21 production, and these histories do not need to be mutually  
22 exclusive; and

23          WHEREAS, the United States army and the department of  
24 defense have proposed alternative routes for the SunZia  
25 transmission line project that would utilize existing rights of

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1 way, while also avoiding construction on White Sands missile  
2 range;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that opposition be expressed to the  
5 construction of the SunZia transmission line project as  
6 currently recognized by the bureau of land management; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bureau of land management  
8 of the United States department of the interior be requested to  
9 halt any further approval or action related to the SunZia  
10 transmission line project until concerns about the project's  
11 environmental implications and effects on the White Sands  
12 missile range are addressed; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the secretary of the interior and the director  
15 of the bureau of land management.