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HOUSE MEMORIAL 32

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

George Dodge, Jr. And Bill McCamley
and Stephanie Garcia Richard

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE EXISTING AND POTENTIAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
BENEFITS PRESENTED TO THE STATE BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE
ENERGY RESOURCES; RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES BY THE NEW MEXICO
RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY; EXPRESSING THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES' SUPPORT FOR FUNDING THE NEW MEXICO
RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is rich in renewable energy resource
potential, including solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and
biofuels energy; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico lacks transmission capacity to deliver
renewable energy from its sources to load centers where it is
needed; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has implemented policies and

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1 incentives for renewable energy resource development, and,
2 given New Mexico's geographical location, the state is poised
3 to become a leader in the new energy economy; and

4 WHEREAS, renewable energy resource development will
5 breathe new life into rural New Mexico through job creation,
6 job training and financial investment; and

7 WHEREAS, transmission projects provide improved system
8 reliability, improved infrastructure for economic development
9 and enhanced diversity of power generation technologies that
10 lead to stabilized or lower energy costs; and

11 WHEREAS, transmission development could allow New Mexico
12 to export energy to markets outside of the state; and

13 WHEREAS, the development and use of renewable energy
14 resources are vitally important to New Mexico's future; and

15 WHEREAS, the identification of renewable energy resource
16 zones and potential corridors to accommodate those identified
17 zones presents substantial economic opportunities in New
18 Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico took a substantial step toward
20 realizing these potentials by creating the New Mexico renewable
21 energy transmission authority through passage into law of House
22 Bill 188 in 2007, which requires the authority to plan,
23 finance, build and operate new electricity transmission lines;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission

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1 authority constructed and owns the transmission portion of the
2 High Lonesome Mesa project, a one-hundred-megawatt wind-powered
3 electricity generation project located in Torrance county that
4 is currently operating and that is estimated to generate
5 fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000) in tax revenue for
6 Torrance county and the Estancia municipal school district and
7 nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000) in lease revenue to
8 local landowners over the next thirty years; and

9 WHEREAS, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
10 authority is co-developing the Western Spirit Clean Line
11 project, a one-hundred-forty-mile transmission line that will
12 collect renewable power from east central New Mexico and
13 deliver approximately one thousand megawatts of power to
14 markets in the western United States that have a strong demand
15 for clean, reliable energy; and

16 WHEREAS, the Western Spirit Clean Line project is
17 estimated to generate approximately twenty-eight million
18 dollars (\$28,000,000) in property taxes for New Mexico counties
19 over the first forty years of operation and will provide
20 hundreds of jobs to construct, and dozens of jobs to maintain
21 and operate, the transmission line and wind generators that
22 will provide power to the line; and

23 WHEREAS, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
24 authority has renewed a memorandum of understanding for the
25 SunZia Southwest transmission project, which is a five-hundred-

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1 fifteen-mile transmission line in New Mexico and Arizona that
2 would deliver three thousand megawatts of power to western
3 markets; and

4 WHEREAS, the SunZia Southwest transmission project is
5 estimated to generate approximately forty-six million dollars
6 (\$46,000,000) in state and local taxes during the construction
7 period and over four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in property
8 taxes during construction and operations, and it will provide
9 nearly four thousand jobs during construction and more than two
10 hundred jobs during operation of the transmission line and wind
11 generators that will provide power to the line; and

12 WHEREAS, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
13 authority has proven its ability to provide substantial
14 economic benefit to the state, and its completed and pending
15 projects and plans for further projects will provide additional
16 substantial benefit to the state; and

17 WHEREAS, the continued existence of the New Mexico
18 renewable energy transmission authority and the future of the
19 currently pending projects and future plans are in jeopardy
20 because the authority did not receive public funding in fiscal
21 years 2016 and 2017;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state be
24 requested to restore public funding for the New Mexico
25 renewable energy transmission authority to enable it to

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1 continue to provide economic benefit to the state; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature be
3 requested to include an appropriation in the amount of two
4 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in the General
5 Appropriation Act of 2018 to fund the operations of the New
6 Mexico renewable energy transmission authority; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
9 authority, the speaker of the house of representatives, the
10 president pro tempore of the senate, the chair of the house
11 appropriations and finance committee and the chair of the
12 senate finance committee.