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HOUSE MEMORIAL 71

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EFFICACY OF SMART, HYBRID MICROGRIDS TO ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A MIX OF ENERGY THAT EMPHASIZES CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY.

WHEREAS, there is support in state government to increase the rate of affordable, renewable energy adoption into the state's overall energy mix; and

WHEREAS, renewable portfolio standards legislation introduced in the 2019 legislative session sets a goal of fifty percent renewables by 2030 for investor-owned utilities and forty percent by 2030 for rural electric cooperatives, with higher renewable penetration goals in future years, but there are inadequate plans in place to achieve those goals; and

WHEREAS, good public policy is grounded in using the

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1 latest technological advances, and New Mexico has established
2 itself as a leader in technology by gathering and facilitating
3 the work of scientists and engineers at its public universities
4 and the national laboratories, whose expertise may be used to
5 design the plans necessary to meet the state's renewable energy
6 goals; and

7 WHEREAS, new design standards could be used to increase
8 the rate at which renewable energy sources are implemented in
9 New Mexico, bringing the advantages of greater affordability,
10 resiliency and reliability to the electrical grid; and

11 WHEREAS, the current regulations, rules and laws
12 surrounding energy do not take into consideration the newest
13 technological advances with regard to renewable energy; and

14 WHEREAS, the smart integration of renewable resources into
15 New Mexico's energy portfolio mix has the potential to lower
16 overall carbon dioxide emissions and to make the grid stronger,
17 more resilient, more reliable and more cost-effective,
18 especially when combined with current energy generation
19 sources; and

20 WHEREAS, a gap is developing between wealthy and poor New
21 Mexicans with respect to accessing renewable energy sources due
22 to upfront capital costs associated with installing equipment
23 and converting to using more reliable renewable energy; and

24 WHEREAS, it is fundamentally unfair that those New
25 Mexicans who can afford the newest and best energy generation

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1 technology drive the cost of energy up for those who cannot,
2 necessitating state leadership and utility providers to be the
3 driving force behind the proliferation of affordable renewable
4 energy; and

5 WHEREAS, given the vital importance of reliable
6 electricity, making renewable energy accessible is critically
7 important to the health of the electrical grid as a key
8 component of the local economy; and

9 WHEREAS, smart, hybrid microgrids are modern, small-scale
10 versions of the centralized electricity system that deliver
11 electricity to homes and businesses, integrate multiple
12 electricity generation sources into the electrical grid,
13 including solar and wind and allow electrical grid operators to
14 direct energy to different locations around the electrical grid
15 to meet demand; and

16 WHEREAS, the use of smart, hybrid microgrids provides
17 opportunities for workforce development by requiring
18 specialized installation and long-term maintenance; and

19 WHEREAS, smart, hybrid microgrids could assist the state
20 in integrating renewable energy sources into New Mexico's
21 energy portfolio mix, while allowing local communities to
22 participate in and support renewable energy generation in the
23 state; and

24 WHEREAS, leadership at the state and utility level is
25 needed to ensure that renewable energy sources may be accessed

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1 by all neighborhoods, not just those where residents can
2 privately afford them, to accelerate the integration of
3 renewable energy into the electrical grid using the latest
4 technology and to maintain overall grid health in a transformed
5 energy generation environment; and

6 WHEREAS, plans to meet the state's renewable portfolio
7 standard need to consider financing opportunities and
8 alternatives to the centralized electricity system so as to
9 allow all New Mexicans to participate in New Mexico's energy
10 future;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy,
13 minerals and natural resources department be requested to
14 establish a task force to study the efficacy of using smart,
15 hybrid microgrids to accelerate the implementation of a mix of
16 energy that emphasizes clean, renewable energy; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
18 study how the legislative and executive branches of state
19 government, in concert with the public regulation commission,
20 may best:

21 A. assist investor-owned utilities and cooperative
22 utilities in attaining stated renewable portfolio standard
23 goals by utilizing smart, hybrid microgrids; and

24 B. require the inclusion of smart, hybrid
25 microgrids and updated hybrid technologies into utilities'

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1 integrated resource plans; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
3 representatives of:

4 A. a renewable energy research group at a New
5 Mexico university;

6 B. the renewable energy technologies group at a
7 national laboratory;

8 C. an investor-owned electric utility in New
9 Mexico;

10 D. a municipal electric utility provider in New
11 Mexico;

12 E. an electric cooperative in New Mexico; and

13 F. a private business in the clean and renewable
14 energy field; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
16 findings, conclusions and recommendations to the appropriate
17 interim legislative committee by December 1, 2019; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
20 resources, the chair of the public regulation commission and
21 the governor.