

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ARRANGE FOR
3 A THIRD-PARTY FACILITATOR TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO
4 REVIEW STATEWIDE COMMUNITY SOLAR INITIATIVES AND DEVELOP
5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE INITIATIVES.
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7 WHEREAS, solar energy production installations convert
8 energy from sunlight into electricity through the use of
9 photovoltaics or concentrated solar power; and

10 WHEREAS, solar energy is an environmentally friendly
11 renewable energy source that can help reduce electricity
12 bills and has diverse applications; and

13 WHEREAS, solar energy production has risen over the
14 course of the past several years, and this trend is expected
15 to continue; and

16 WHEREAS, by the middle of 2018, five and three-tenths
17 gigawatts of solar capacity had been installed in the United
18 States, producing enough energy to power eleven million
19 homes; and

20 WHEREAS, employment in the solar energy sector more
21 than doubled between 2010 and 2017, from approximately
22 ninety-three thousand to two hundred fifty thousand jobs; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2017, thirty-two percent of households in
24 New Mexico were renting, and thirty percent of those
25 households fell below the federal poverty line; and

1 WHEREAS, rooftop solar is generally not affordable nor
2 accessible to low-income families and renters; and

3 WHEREAS, community solar allows for low-income families
4 and renters to access solar energy and reduce their
5 electricity bills; and

6 WHEREAS, nineteen states and the District of Columbia
7 have policies and programs supporting community solar
8 development; and

9 WHEREAS, with its abundance of sunshine, New Mexico is
10 among the states that can derive the greatest benefits from
11 solar energy production; and

12 WHEREAS, community solar initiatives would allow for
13 local governments, multiple individuals and entities to share
14 the benefits of a single solar facility to which they
15 subscribe and obtain monetary credit on their utility bills
16 for a portion of the solar power produced; and

17 WHEREAS, participation and recommendations from the
18 energy, minerals and natural resources department, the public
19 regulation commission, utility companies, electric
20 cooperatives, renewable energy industry representatives,
21 Indian nations, tribes and pueblos, low-income service
22 providers, local governments and community members from all
23 regions of the state would be a key component to the success
24 of community solar initiatives statewide;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council
2 be requested to arrange for a third-party facilitator to
3 convene a working group no later than March 21, 2020 to
4 review statewide community solar initiatives and develop
5 recommendations for implementation of those initiatives that
6 result in a sustainable and scalable market-based program for
7 the state of New Mexico; provided that the third-party
8 facilitator shall facilitate without compensation from the
9 state; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
11 composed of representatives from the energy, minerals and
12 natural resources department; the public regulation
13 commission; utility companies; electric cooperatives;
14 renewable energy industry representatives; the New Mexico
15 municipal league; environmental organizations; Indian
16 nations, tribes and pueblos; low-income service providers;
17 and local governments, cities, counties and interested
18 community members from throughout the state; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
20 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the
21 appropriate interim legislative committee by October 1, 2020;
22 and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
25 council. _____