

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 32

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

D. Wonda Johnson

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ASSESS THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN *THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF URANIUM MINE CLEANUP IN NEW MEXICO* REPORT AND TO CREATE A COMMITTEE OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS TO PROMOTE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION AS A KEY INDUSTRY IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the state, the Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of Laguna and the Pueblo of Acoma are faced with the dangerous toxic environmental legacy from past uranium mining; and

WHEREAS, more than one thousand mine sites need to be assessed to determine appropriate remediation efforts that may take decades to complete, and uranium-impacted communities and workers are largely ignored in studies of new energy economy opportunities; and

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1           WHEREAS, in 2019, the legislature appropriated funds for  
2 fiscal year 2020 to the university of New Mexico bureau of  
3 business and economic research to investigate the potential  
4 economic impact of uranium mine cleanup and assess the  
5 workforce capacity for conducting the cleanup work; and

6           WHEREAS, the funding bill was sponsored by Representative  
7 D. Wonda Johnson, and the university of New Mexico bureau of  
8 business and economic research study was conducted with  
9 oversight by the legislature's interim Indian affairs  
10 committee; and

11           WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico bureau of business  
12 and economic research report, titled *The Economic Opportunities*  
13 *and Challenges of Uranium Mine Cleanup in New Mexico*, provides  
14 a blueprint for how the state can and should prioritize  
15 environmental remediation as a target industry, focusing  
16 specifically on leveraging existing specialized expertise in  
17 cleanup of radioactive and toxic uranium mine wastes; and

18           WHEREAS, fostering development of a uranium mine  
19 remediation industry can be accomplished by creating a central  
20 database of critical information on former uranium sites and  
21 opportunities, establishing shared workspaces for remediation  
22 businesses, adopting safety certification programs for workers  
23 and coordinating remediation research among the state's  
24 universities, national laboratories and federal agencies; and

25           WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico bureau of business

.220744.1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 and economic research report estimated revenues of one hundred  
2 seventeen million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$117,800,000)  
3 per year over ten years and one thousand forty highly skilled  
4 jobs at an average salary of fifty-four thousand six hundred  
5 sixty-three dollars (\$54,663) per year in sustainable community  
6 development initiatives based on green jobs; and

7 WHEREAS, the report makes twelve recommendations in four  
8 categories that address overall planning needed for developing  
9 a remediation industry; challenges faced by state businesses;  
10 challenges faced by the state's workforce; and development of  
11 future opportunities as remediation activities increase in the  
12 state; and

13 WHEREAS, the report further recommends that research  
14 continue on the effects of unremediated uranium mines beyond  
15 economic impacts, including cultural impacts and health  
16 impacts, and on the validity of metrics used for cleanup  
17 standards; and

18 WHEREAS, the report provides opportunities to include  
19 uranium-impacted communities and workers in a just economy and  
20 incorporate legacy cleanup activities in sustainable community  
21 development initiatives based on green jobs;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be  
24 requested to study the recommendations in *The Economic*  
25 *Opportunities and Challenges of Uranium Mine Cleanup in New*

.220744.1

underscored material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 Mexico for implementation; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
3 create a committee of key stakeholders, including directly  
4 impacted community members, representatives of the Navajo  
5 Nation, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of Acoma, state and  
6 federal agencies and any other affected entity in uranium-mine  
7 remediation regulation, science, policy and community impacts,  
8 to promote collaboration and coordination in the development of  
9 environmental remediation as a key industry in New Mexico; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be requested to  
11 report to the legislature on an annual basis to outline  
12 funding, strategies and any other related implementation  
13 options; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial and  
15 the university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic  
16 research report be distributed to the secretary of economic  
17 development, the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
18 resources, the secretary of environment, the secretary of  
19 higher education, the secretary of Indian affairs and the  
20 secretary of workforce solutions; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED copies of this memorial and the  
22 university of New Mexico bureau of business and economic  
23 research report be distributed to the members of the  
24 legislature, members of the New Mexico congressional  
25 delegation, the administrator of the United States

.220744.1

underscoring material = new  
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 environmental protection agency and the secretary of the United  
2 States department of energy; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the report be filed  
4 in the legislative council service library.

5 - 5 -  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25