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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Michael Padilla

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO JOINTLY
STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPEDITE FOREST RESTORATION
THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's forests have a high risk of wildfire
and require significant thinning and watershed restoration to
reduce hazards and protect communities, source waters and
ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, forest and watershed restoration generates wood
byproducts that are costly to process and remove without viable
markets, which limits the pace and scale of restoration
activities necessary to reduce wildfire risk; and

WHEREAS, state incentives are needed to drive innovation
in wood utilization, create markets that promote sustainable

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1 tree thinning and reduce the overall cost of forest and
2 watershed restoration for the public good; and

3 WHEREAS, recommendations are needed to encourage
4 investment in the wood utilization sector and accelerate forest
5 restoration and wildfire risk reduction statewide;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural
8 resources department and the economic development department be
9 requested to study and jointly develop recommendations
10 regarding:

11 A. what business opportunities are missing in New
12 Mexico that are needed to develop a fully functioning wood
13 products economy, including to retain workforce and succession
14 planning;

15 B. what incentives, legal actions, financial
16 mechanisms and partnerships are needed to reduce logistical
17 costs of moving wood byproducts from remote forests to regional
18 processing facilities and increase the economic viability of
19 New Mexico's wood utilization sector;

20 C. what programs, policies, laws and practices
21 exist in other states that have successful wood utilization
22 programs that can be adapted to New Mexico's unique economic
23 and environmental context; and

24 D. what new or existing state programs and
25 incentives can be leveraged to foster industry expansion,

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1 attract capital investment, create jobs and ensure local and
2 state contributions yield a strong return on investment through
3 performance-based evaluations; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and
5 natural resources department and the economic development
6 department report findings and conclusions to the appropriate
7 interim legislative committees dealing with natural resources
8 and economic development by September 1, 2025; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
11 resources and the secretary of economic development for
12 appropriate distribution.