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SENATE MEMORIAL 44

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Timothy M. Keller

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION
AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE
ZONES IN NEW MEXICO THAT HAVE POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT INDUSTRY
DEVELOPMENT AMONG RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPERS FOR RENEWABLE
RESOURCE GENERATION PROJECTS AND IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE THE
BEST VIABLE OPTIONS FOR POTENTIAL TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS TO
ACCOMMODATE RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPORT FROM NEW MEXICO IN
ACCORDANCE WITH A DEFINED TIME LINE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a state rich in renewable resource
potential, including, but not limited to, solar, wind,
geothermal, biomass and biofuels energy; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is lacking transmission capacity to
deliver renewable energy from where it is generated to load
centers where it is needed; and

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, transmission development could open a market for
13 New Mexico to export energy to markets outside of the state;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the use of renewable energy resources is of vital
16 importance to New Mexico's future; and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
18 authority was created by the passage into law of House Bill 188
19 in 2007 that requires the authority to plan, finance, build and
20 operate new electricity transmission lines that carry power at
21 least thirty percent of which originates from renewable
22 sources; and

23 WHEREAS, through resolution, the authority has agreed to
24 adhere to the Open Meetings Act; and

25 WHEREAS, the identification of renewable energy resource

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1 zones and potential corridors to accommodate those identified
2 zones affects the public and the potential for opportunities in
3 New Mexico;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that the board of the New Mexico renewable energy
6 transmission authority be requested to:

7 A. develop a map and any necessary supporting
8 documents identifying existing generation and transmission
9 lines and renewable energy resource zones within New Mexico
10 that have the potential to support competition among renewable
11 energy developers for development of projects in the identified
12 renewable energy resource zones;

13 B. coordinate with applicable state and federal
14 agencies to prioritize regions with low or minimal land
15 development conflicts;

16 C. using the map and additional available
17 information, identify and prioritize the best viable options
18 for potential transmission corridors to accommodate renewable
19 energy exports from New Mexico;

20 D. present the map and documents developed pursuant
21 to this memorial to the governor and the interim legislative
22 New Mexico finance authority oversight committee at its first
23 meeting of the interim;

24 E. solicit public comments on the draft maps and
25 documents presented to the committee;

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F. provide for a forty-five-day public comment period;

G. solicit electric utilities, affiliated transmission companies and independent transmission companies to identify the existing or new transmission infrastructure necessary to deliver energy production potential for each of the regions identified and submit this information to the authority for review; and

H. report back to the New Mexico finance authority oversight committee no later than October 31, 2009 with a revised map and supporting documents designating zones and prioritized corridors based on consideration of public comments and proposed transmission infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the members and executive director of the New Mexico renewable energy transmission authority.