

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 43

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
12 DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE LEGISLATIVE AND  
13 REGULATORY INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE  
14 ENERGY STORAGE.

15  
16 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a state rich in renewable resource  
17 potential, including, but not limited to, solar, wind,  
18 geothermal, biomass and biofuels energy; and

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

23 WHEREAS, renewable energy projects provide improved system  
24 reliability, improved infrastructure for economic development  
25 and enhanced diversity of power storage technologies that lead

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1 to lower or stabilized energy costs; and

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

4 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state government administers many  
5 existing laws and regulations regarding energy production; and

6 WHEREAS, the state government also administers many  
7 incentives intended to stimulate new renewable energy  
8 production; and

9 WHEREAS, the state government also administers a range of  
10 programs intended to encourage or subsidize energy conservation  
11 or efficiency; and

12 WHEREAS, the state has adopted renewable energy portfolio  
13 standards and other future targets for energy savings; and

14 WHEREAS, any future comprehensive energy planning and  
15 policymaking will require an understanding of existing  
16 policies; and

17 WHEREAS, it is clear that with today's technology, much  
18 more energy can be harvested from the sun and wind, but the sun  
19 and wind do not always produce energy when it is needed; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico is lacking renewable energy storage  
21 capacity to enable delivery of renewable energy when it is  
22 needed; and

23 WHEREAS, in the history of wind energy, the tax and  
24 legislative incentives that began in the 1970s have produced  
25 such a vibrant wind industry today that wind energy is now more

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1 competitive with conventional generation methods, so that tax  
2 and legislative incentives are being actively phased out across  
3 the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, it is imperative that New Mexico, a national  
5 leader in the implementation of renewable energy, explore the  
6 steps needed to bring the energy storage industry to parity  
7 with the renewable energy generation industry; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico's national laboratories are world  
9 leaders in the research of energy storage, energy transmission  
10 and renewable energy generation technology;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural  
13 resources department be requested to:

14 A. convene a working group of representatives of  
15 energy-related state offices, including the energy, minerals  
16 and natural resources department, the department of  
17 environment, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission  
18 authority, the economic development department, the public  
19 regulation commission and the office of the governor, as well  
20 as representatives of New Mexico's national laboratories and  
21 the private and nonprofit sectors;

22 B. organize the working group to compile an  
23 inventory of major existing renewable energy storage policies  
24 and regulations;

25 C. develop legislative and regulatory

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1 recommendations and alternatives that can incentivize renewable  
2 energy storage technologies and infrastructure development to  
3 benefit New Mexico, with the recommendations drawing on  
4 successful planning practices utilized in other states; and

5 D. present the report to the appropriate interim  
6 committee of the legislature by October 2013; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
8 natural resources department be requested to integrate this  
9 effort into the responsibilities of other existing task forces,  
10 working groups or agency activities already under way that  
11 address related efforts; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
14 resources, the secretary of environment, the director of the  
15 New Mexico renewable energy transmission authority, the  
16 secretary of economic development, the public regulation  
17 commission, the office of the governor, the state's rural  
18 electric cooperatives, the directors of the national  
19 laboratories located in New Mexico and the chief operating  
20 officers of utility companies providing service in New Mexico.