

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 19

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO COMMISSION A NUCLEAR TASK FORCE TO FACILITATE NUCLEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of the few states still facing the challenge of jobs recovery from the severe economic decline of 2007 and 2008, and every possible effort must be put into creating good jobs that will put New Mexicans to work, enhance the state's education system, embrace those economic clusters that have been tried-and-true job creators for the state and focus on advanced research, development and energy; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has benefited significantly from the pivotal role it has played in the nation's nuclear industry, and many of the state's wealthiest communities and most highly educated residents have direct ties to the industry; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a significantly large and mature

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1 nuclear-business cluster, including Sandia national
2 laboratories, Los Alamos national laboratory, three research
3 universities, the university of New Mexico cancer treatment
4 center, the university of New Mexico nuclear engineering
5 department, Kirtland air force base, the waste isolation pilot
6 plant, the URENCO enrichment facility, White Sands missile
7 range, enormous uranium deposits and a large number of
8 associated private companies, which have never been coordinated
9 and capitalized upon in a major economic development effort;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the national laboratories in the state employ
12 thousands of New Mexicans, are global leaders in nuclear
13 research and engineering, provide excellent advanced
14 educational opportunities, collaborate with the state
15 universities, support business with technical problems, are an
16 asset to the state in hundreds of different ways and are in a
17 unique position to provide "work for others" research as well
18 as additional missions; and

19 WHEREAS, the waste isolation pilot plant has become world-
20 renowned in nuclear waste management capabilities, and those
21 capabilities should be examined for additional missions that
22 would benefit the country as well as the state; and

23 WHEREAS, these resources could combine to create thirty
24 thousand jobs that will pay more than minimum wage; and

25 WHEREAS, URENCO has constructed a four-billion-dollar

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1 (\$4,000,000,000) enrichment facility in the southeastern part
2 of the state to supply enriched uranium for power plants, and
3 other front-end businesses of the fuel cycle, such as
4 pelletizing, fuel-rod manufacturing and fuel-assembly
5 manufacturing companies, could be added to the business
6 portfolio of the state; and

7 WHEREAS, the demand for electricity in southeast New
8 Mexico because of the rapid growth in that area, as well as the
9 replacement demand for the four thousand megawatts of
10 electricity capacity in northwestern New Mexico as a result of
11 the phaseout of coal, make small modular nuclear reactors and
12 large volume nuclear reactors a necessity for "carbon free"
13 base load electricity production; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico is an ideal location for small modular
15 nuclear reactor development due to the state's having two
16 national laboratories, intellectual nuclear capability as well
17 as electricity demand; and

18 WHEREAS, the nuclear industry should be one of the key
19 components for the state's economic recovery;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to
22 commission a nuclear task force composed of cabinet secretaries
23 focused on economic development, environment, energy and
24 health, pertinent policy advisors from the governor's office
25 and economic development leaders in the state to facilitate

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1 nuclear economic development opportunities; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force form a
3 technical subcommittee made up of scientists from the national
4 laboratories, state universities, the waste isolation pilot
5 plant and the private sector to identify nuclear opportunities
6 in the state; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force form a
8 stakeholder advisory subcommittee made up of the economic
9 development entities of the state and local government for the
10 purpose of implementing the recommendations of the technical
11 subcommittee; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor.