

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 12

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THAT NEW MEXICO SHOULD BE AN ENERGY CONSERVATION LEADER IN SAVING HUMANS, WILDLIFE AND PLANTS FROM HARMFUL CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS AND REQUESTING A "GET A BRIGHT IDEA" CONSUMER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

WHEREAS, a majority of scientists agree that global temperatures are increasing, that human activities are contributing to this climate change and that further warming is inevitable unless immediate and sweeping actions are taken to promote energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, global warming creates extreme weather cycles of drought and floods, which are harmful to humans and to New Mexico's ecosystems, including its migrating birds and coldwater fish; and

WHEREAS, rising temperatures throughout the southwest will

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1 lead to increased risks of drought, earlier snowpack melts,  
2 decreased drinking water supplies and intense fire seasons; and

3 WHEREAS, increased wildfires and floods are harmful and  
4 costly to New Mexico and affect wildlife in harmful ways,  
5 including habitat loss and diminished food supplies; and

6 WHEREAS, one-fourth of the world's plant and vertebrate  
7 animal species may face extinction by 2050 due to the effects  
8 of global warming; and

9 WHEREAS, human activities and energy consumption  
10 contribute to climate change by releasing greenhouse gases such  
11 as carbon dioxide and methane; and

12 WHEREAS, the use of fossil fuels for energy consumption  
13 contributes to the release of greenhouse gases; and

14 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change can be slowed by  
15 reducing the release of greenhouse gases; and

16 WHEREAS, the release of greenhouse gases can be reduced by  
17 energy conservation and the use of solar, wind and other  
18 alternative sources of energy; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico should be a leader in energy  
20 conservation and take steps to reduce global warming; and

21 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state government aims to be energy  
22 efficient and to support sustainable energy production, energy  
23 conservation and public transportation; and

24 WHEREAS, if all American families replaced just one of  
25 their incandescent light bulbs with a compact fluorescent light

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1 bulb, this would save enough energy to power a city for over a  
2 year; and

3 WHEREAS, if state offices, schools and public institutions  
4 use compact fluorescent light bulbs and ENERGY STAR-certified  
5 appliances and products, this will help energy conservation;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexicans should be encouraged to conserve  
8 resources and recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and  
9 aluminum to help reduce waste; and

10 WHEREAS, the New Mexico state government can encourage  
11 consumer education on climate change issues and how they affect  
12 New Mexico and its wildlife and environment through a "climate  
13 change awareness day"; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico can help slow the effects of global  
15 warming by planting more trees adaptable to New Mexico and by  
16 creating wetlands that absorb carbon dioxide; and

17 WHEREAS, student groups, such as wild friends, are taking  
18 action to reduce global warming through the use of compact  
19 fluorescent light bulbs, recycling and programs that teach  
20 energy conservation; and

21 WHEREAS, wild friends students at Rio Gallinas school are  
22 participating in designing a classroom greenhouse that teaches  
23 self-sustainability through the use of alternative energy,  
24 water catchments and organic gardening; and

25 WHEREAS, schools that join the energy schools teaching

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1 about resource savings program and students who design creative  
2 solutions for energy conservation should be publicly  
3 recognized; and

4 WHEREAS, children in the future should be safe from  
5 harmful effects of climate change and should have an  
6 opportunity to see and learn about wildlife and nature;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state be a leader in reducing  
9 greenhouse gases through energy conservation and the use of  
10 alternative energy; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
12 natural resources department be requested to issue pamphlets  
13 and conduct the "get a bright idea" consumer awareness campaign  
14 to educate the public about energy-saving compact fluorescent  
15 light bulbs and ENERGY STAR-certified appliances and products;  
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
18 declare a "climate change awareness day" to help educate  
19 residents about how climate change issues will affect New  
20 Mexicans and their wildlife and the environment; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies be requested to  
22 take steps to use natural lighting, replace light bulbs in  
23 existing buildings with compact fluorescent light bulbs and use  
24 automatic timers on lights and heating and cooling systems to  
25 conserve energy; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state recommend that all  
2 New Mexico schools recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum  
3 and glass and participate in the programs known as "energy  
4 schools teaching about resource savings"; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies be requested to  
6 use energy-efficient vehicles for fuel conservation and to  
7 encourage employees to carpool or use public transportation;  
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislature  
10 consider adopting an income tax credit for consumers who buy  
11 ENERGY STAR-certified appliances, products and central heating  
12 and cooling systems; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state agencies be requested to  
14 support sustainable energy production through research, grants  
15 and tax credits to corporations and residents that produce,  
16 sell or use clean energy; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the office of the governor, the construction  
19 industries division of the regulation and licensing department,  
20 the department of environment, the department of  
21 transportation, the energy, minerals and natural resources  
22 department, the public education department, the higher  
23 education department, the taxation and revenue department and  
24 the members of the New Mexico legislative council.

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