

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO STUDY METHODS TO INCENTIVIZE THE BIODIESEL INDUSTRY IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the recent energy shortages and fluctuation in fuel prices contributed to the current economic decline, with its hardships of unemployment, home foreclosures and investment losses; and

WHEREAS, alternative energy development is key to moving the country into the twenty-first century and improving economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, to that end, the legislature in 2007 enacted Senate Conservation Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 489, which required state and local agencies using diesel fuel to use five percent biodiesel fuel in their vehicles; and

WHEREAS, only two known biodiesel plants exist in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, distribution of the product is very limited and, therefore, the biodiesel industry is stymied;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural resources department, with the cooperation of the economic development department and the New Mexico department of agriculture, be requested to study the biodiesel industry and

assess methods to incentivize the industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and natural resources department report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim committee of the legislature by December 1, 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources and the secretary of economic development.