

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION
3 AUTHORITY TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE RENEWABLE ENERGY
4 RESOURCE ZONES IN NEW MEXICO THAT HAVE POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT
5 INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AMONG RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPERS FOR
6 RENEWABLE RESOURCE GENERATION PROJECTS AND IDENTIFY AND
7 PRIORITIZE THE BEST VIABLE OPTIONS FOR POTENTIAL TRANSMISSION
8 CORRIDORS TO ACCOMMODATE RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPORT FROM NEW
9 MEXICO IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DEFINED TIME LINE AND REQUESTING
10 THE NEW MEXICO RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY TO
11 CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
12 LEGISLATURE FOR ESTABLISHING A PROCESS TO STREAMLINE
13 PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION
14 PROJECTS IN NEW MEXICO.

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

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

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

1 economy; and

2 WHEREAS, renewable resource development will breathe new
3 life into rural New Mexico through job creation, job training
4 programs and financial investment; and

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

9 WHEREAS, transmission development could open a market
10 for New Mexico to export energy to markets outside of the
11 state; and

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

14 WHEREAS, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
15 authority was created by the passage into law of House Bill
16 188 in 2007 that requires the authority to plan, finance,
17 build and operate new electricity transmission lines that
18 carry power at least thirty percent of which originates from
19 renewable sources; and

20 WHEREAS, through resolution, the authority has agreed to
21 adhere to the Open Meetings Act; and

22 WHEREAS, the identification of renewable energy resource
23 zones and potential corridors to accommodate those identified
24 zones affects the public and the potential for opportunities
25 in New Mexico; and

1 WHEREAS, there exist substantial barriers to developing,
2 siting, permitting, procuring and establishing electric
3 transmission infrastructure in New Mexico due to the multiple
4 state and federal requirements that apply; and

5 WHEREAS, the western governors' association has
6 undertaken the western renewable energy zone process to
7 identify and expedite cost-effective, environmentally
8 sensitive electric transmission development to areas with
9 high-grade, renewable energy resources; and

10 WHEREAS, encouraging greater and more timely renewable
11 energy development means that New Mexico's governmental
12 bodies and instrumentalities, Public Service company of New
13 Mexico, Tri-State Generation and Transmission association,
14 incorporated, El Paso Electric company, Excell/SPS, other
15 transmission companies, the United States bureau of land
16 management, the United States forest service and New Mexico
17 nongovernmental environmental organizations need to establish
18 a coordinated, cohesive and unified approach to improve and
19 streamline the manner in which renewable-energy electric
20 transmission infrastructure is developed, sited, permitted,
21 procured and established; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to establish a framework for
23 early cooperation and participation among and between state
24 and federal entities and processes to enhance coordination of
25 all applicable land use authorizations, related

1 environmental, cultural and historic preservation reviews and
2 all other approvals that may be required under federal law in
3 order to site electric transmission facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, for electric transmission infrastructure that
5 crosses state boundaries, there will need to be coordination
6 with bodies and agencies of the federal government;

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

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

16 B. coordinate with applicable state and federal
17 agencies to prioritize regions with low or minimal land
18 development conflicts;

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

23 D. present the map and documents developed
24 pursuant to this memorial to the governor and the interim
25 legislative New Mexico finance authority oversight committee

1 at its first meeting of the interim;

2 E. solicit public comments on the draft maps and
3 documents presented to the committee;

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

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

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

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico renewable
18 energy transmission authority be requested to convene a
19 working group, composed of the public regulation commission,
20 the commissioner of public lands, the economic development
21 department, Public Service company of New Mexico, Tri-State
22 Generation and Transmission association, incorporated, El
23 Paso Electric company, Excell/SPS, other transmission
24 companies, the United States bureau of land management, the
25 United States forest service and New Mexico nongovernmental

1 environmental organizations, and submit a joint report to the
2 legislature by October 1, 2009 that:

3 A. identifies administrative, jurisdictional and
4 other barriers that may impede effective and expeditious
5 opportunities for developing electric transmission
6 infrastructure to support renewable energy production in New
7 Mexico;

8 B. describes opportunities to integrate utility
9 infrastructure planning into federal, state and local
10 planning initiatives, with the goal of streamlining the
11 process by which projects can be permitted and developed
12 while improving utility and public communication as part of
13 the planning process;

14 C. proposes modification of procedures for the
15 federal energy regulatory commission pre-filing process for an
16 electric transmission project to begin and proceed
17 concurrently with other federal and state permitting
18 processes; and

19 D. recommends actions, agreements, regulatory
20 reform and other steps that could be taken by the state and
21 the federal government to establish a coordinated, cohesive
22 and unified approach to improve and streamline the manner in
23 which renewable energy transmission infrastructure is
24 developed, sited, permitted, procured and established within
25 New Mexico to promote effective and expeditious electric

1 transmission infrastructure; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the renewable energy transmission authority,
4 the public regulation commission, the commissioner of public
5 lands, the economic development department, Public Service
6 company of New Mexico, Tri-State Generation and Transmission
7 association, incorporated, El Paso Electric company,
8 Excell/SPS, other transmission companies, the United States
9 bureau of land management and the United States forest
10 service.

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