

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 29

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATION THAT HEIGHTENS NATIONAL ENERGY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY, PROMOTES INNOVATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS AND ADDRESSES THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

WHEREAS, the United States congress currently has before it for consideration the American Clean Energy and Security Act, HR 2454, adopted by the house of representatives on June 26, 2009, and the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, S 1733, that promote clean energy development and use, reduce pollution, limit dependence on foreign energy sources and create economic opportunities that bring jobs; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the oil and approximately fifteen percent of the natural gas consumed in the United States come from foreign sources; and

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1 WHEREAS, many states, including New Mexico, have adopted
2 renewable energy standards and goals that require a significant
3 percentage of a state's electricity to be generated from non-
4 fossil-fuel renewable energy sources such as wind, solar,
5 hydropower and biomass, which sources have led to significant
6 job growth in the clean energy sector of the state and national
7 economy; and

8 WHEREAS, the generation of electricity through the use of
9 renewable energy presents opportunities to promote energy self-
10 sufficiency, create jobs and economic benefits and preserve
11 natural resources; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2009, New Mexico adopted the Renewable Energy
13 Financing District Act, which recognizes the public benefit of
14 renewable energy by authorizing local governments to provide an
15 innovative financing mechanism to property owners to facilitate
16 the development and installation of renewable energy
17 improvements on their property. That development and
18 installation advances the security, economic well-being and
19 public and environmental health of the state; and contributes
20 to the energy independence of the nation; and

21 WHEREAS, a 2009 study by the Pew charitable trusts reveals
22 that the growth of clean energy economy jobs in New Mexico is
23 greater than for other parts of its economy and that a
24 significant portion of the state's venture capital in the past
25 ten years has been in the clean energy field; and

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1 WHEREAS, the United States now spends approximately one
2 billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) a day to import oil. Through
3 2030, the energy information administration of the United
4 States department of energy estimates that the country's
5 reliance on foreign oil could cost eight and one-half trillion
6 dollars (\$8,500,000,000,000), even without accounting for
7 inflation; and

8 WHEREAS, the economic consequences of this country's
9 dependence on foreign oil are evident; American wealth is being
10 transferred to nations that are rich with oil, and those
11 nations are not always politically stable or friendly to the
12 United States. The United States is trading its capital, a
13 resource that can grow and multiply, for a volatile and finite
14 commodity from foreign sources; and

15 WHEREAS, United States Senator Pete V. Domenici reported
16 to the energy information administration in 2008 that
17 dependence on oil imports may deprive the nation of more than
18 two million jobs per year; and

19 WHEREAS, high oil prices reduce the purchasing power of
20 American consumers, spur inflation and boost the prices of
21 basic goods and services; and

22 WHEREAS, as reported by the national conference of state
23 legislatures, our nation's military leaders recognize that the
24 effects of climate change include the likelihood of increases
25 in political and social instability in poorer regions of the

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1 world, thus presenting potential security challenges for the
2 United States; and

3 WHEREAS, there is worldwide competition for clean energy
4 development; therefore, comprehensive federal clean energy jobs
5 and climate legislation can position the United States' clean
6 energy economic development efforts to be competitive
7 internationally and to deter outsourcing of that economic
8 opportunity to foreign interests; and

9 WHEREAS, while states, including New Mexico, have shown
10 leadership in moving to a clean energy economy, the result is
11 that American industry and business face a patchwork of state
12 clean energy requirements, emissions standards, regulations and
13 incentives. A national framework for clean energy would
14 eliminate this varied and inconsistent approach by providing a
15 predictable regulatory scheme that spurs innovation and
16 discovery in the clean energy sector;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress be
19 requested to enact the American Clean Energy and Security Act,
20 the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act or similar
21 legislation that achieves the purposes of those acts; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
24 delegation and to the chief clerks of the United States house
25 of representatives and the United States senate, for

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distribution to the appropriate committees.

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