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HOUSE MEMORIAL 57

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

INTRODUCED BY

Cathrynn N. Brown

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY AND  
ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CONSTRUCTING AND OPERATING A SMALL MODULAR  
REACTOR IN NEW MEXICO IN ITS STATE ENERGY PLAN.

WHEREAS, energy production is a vital industry to New  
Mexico, a leading energy production state; and

WHEREAS, the energy, minerals and natural resources  
department is in the process of developing a state energy plan  
so New Mexico can maintain its leadership well into the future;  
and

WHEREAS, the United States department of energy has  
recognized the need to include small modular reactors in the  
nation's future energy mix and has a cost-share program to help  
fund small modular nuclear reactors that will enable two small

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1 modular reactor designs through the design certification  
2 process and one through the site licensing process; and

3 WHEREAS, small modular reactors are being designed and  
4 tested by companies with extensive experience in the nuclear  
5 industry, including Babcock & Wilcox's Generation mPower,  
6 NuScale power, Westinghouse and others; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States department of energy plans to  
8 site small modular reactors at federal facilities to provide  
9 clean, reliable and secure energy; and

10 WHEREAS, small modular reactors emit no carbon emissions,  
11 can be installed in remote locations, are modular in design,  
12 have an operating life of sixty to eighty years and can be  
13 air-cooled, making them suitable for arid regions like New  
14 Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, small modular reactor designs feature  
16 below-ground containment and utilize passive safety features  
17 such as gravity, convection and conduction to cool the reactor  
18 in an emergency; and

19 WHEREAS, small modular reactors have a significantly lower  
20 capital cost than that of large conventional nuclear plants  
21 and, due to their smaller size, are suitable for the New Mexico  
22 electric grid; and

23 WHEREAS, the construction and operation of small modular  
24 reactors would create high-quality, high-wage jobs for current  
25 and future residents of New Mexico;

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1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy,  
3 minerals and natural resources department be requested to  
4 include evaluation of the feasibility and economic benefits of  
5 constructing and operating a small modular reactor in New  
6 Mexico in its state energy plan; and

7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
8 natural resources department identify the legal and regulatory  
9 requirements of constructing and operating a small modular  
10 reactor in the state and that, in cooperation with the economic  
11 development department, the energy, minerals and natural  
12 resources department include in the energy plan a strategy to  
13 attract investment by the nuclear industry supply chain; and

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
15 natural resources department report on its energy plan and its  
16 progress in fostering small modular nuclear reactor use and  
17 related manufacturing in New Mexico to the appropriate  
18 committees of the legislature by December 2014; and

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