

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE  
3 CREATION OF A WILDFIRE STUDY GROUP TO STUDY AND DEVELOP A  
4 COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE WILDFIRES IN  
5 NEW MEXICO.

6  
7 WHEREAS, New Mexico has endured yet another wildfire  
8 season, among the most devastating in state history; and

9 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that the priorities  
10 of first responders, local, state and federal officials,  
11 utilities, landowners and other stakeholders are aligned; and

12 WHEREAS, this is an opportunity to prioritize safety,  
13 preservation of life and protection of property and animals  
14 by taking action to prevent catastrophic wildfires from  
15 occurring and quickly and efficiently extinguish wildfires  
16 that do occur; and

17 WHEREAS, these priorities can be more easily attained by  
18 providing strategic state support to public and private  
19 wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts; and

20 WHEREAS, a study group would be a collaborative effort  
21 to align activities in support of forest management,  
22 community protection, utilities and state efforts; and

23 WHEREAS, Indian nations, tribes and pueblos have  
24 stewarded the lands of present day New Mexico since time  
25 immemorial, embodying an enduring relationship of respect,

1 responsibility and reciprocity with their ancestral  
2 territories, which include sacred mountains, watersheds and  
3 cultural landscapes integral to their identity, sustenance  
4 and traditions; and

5 WHEREAS, co-management and co-stewardship principles  
6 recognize the deep expertise of indigenous nations in  
7 sustaining the health of lands, waters and ecosystems,  
8 affirming that meaningful tribal leadership in land  
9 management decisions strengthens and enhances climate  
10 resilience and ensures the protection of resources for future  
11 generations; and

12 WHEREAS, the enduring wisdom of Indian nations, tribes  
13 and pueblos must be centered in the protection of land, air  
14 and water, ensuring that indigenous knowledge systems and  
15 ecological practices guide policies and management  
16 strategies;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council  
19 be requested to direct the creation of a study group that  
20 will include stakeholders to study, develop and make  
21 recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative  
22 committee for a comprehensive statewide approach to address,  
23 avoid and mitigate wildfires, including recommendations for  
24 necessary funding and proposed legislation; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the study group

1 in developing recommendations include identifying areas that  
2 are most at risk for catastrophic wildfires; ensuring that  
3 emergency response plans are developed with stakeholders,  
4 including utilities, for the highest-risk areas; identifying  
5 the best policies, practices and investments to mitigate  
6 wildfire risk, with a focus on vegetation management;  
7 providing direct and effective outreach for wildfire  
8 mitigation policies, practices, investments and  
9 weather-related causation; facilitating collaboration among  
10 utilities, first responders, emergency management and  
11 incident response, government agencies and Indian nations,  
12 tribes and pueblos during wildfires; identifying support  
13 mechanisms for affected communities, individuals, businesses  
14 and utilities in the aftermath of wildfire devastation and  
15 restoration of infrastructure; and proposing public policies  
16 to support safe, sustainable and affordable utility service  
17 to residents and businesses before, during and after a  
18 catastrophic wildfire; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group be composed  
20 of a minimum of fourteen members, one each appointed from the  
21 following agencies and stakeholder entities: the forestry  
22 division of the energy, minerals and natural resources  
23 department; the state land office; the energy conservation  
24 and management division of the energy, minerals and natural  
25 resources department; the state department of justice; the

1 homeland security and emergency management department; the  
2 Indian affairs department; the office of superintendent of  
3 insurance; the public regulation commission; the New Mexico  
4 association of counties; the New Mexico municipal league;  
5 investor-owned New Mexico electric utility companies; the  
6 New Mexico rural electric cooperatives; a public member with  
7 expertise in wildfire science and technology appointed by the  
8 secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources; and a  
9 representative of a state-based property insurance carrier  
10 trade association, appointed by the state forester, after  
11 consulting with the office of superintendent of insurance;  
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative  
14 council be requested to engage the forestry division of the  
15 energy, minerals and natural resources department to  
16 coordinate the activities of the study group, including  
17 meeting at regular intervals, and to write a final report  
18 detailing the findings and recommendations of the study  
19 group; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group be  
21 requested to present its findings and recommendations to  
22 the appropriate interim legislative committee by  
23 November 1, 2025; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative

1 council; the governor; the attorney general; the secretary of  
2 energy, minerals and natural resources; the commissioner of  
3 public lands; the chair of the public regulation commission;  
4 the secretary of Indian affairs; the secretary of homeland  
5 security and emergency management; the superintendent of  
6 insurance; the president of the New Mexico rural electric  
7 cooperatives; the presidents and chief executive officers of  
8 the investor-owned electric utility companies in New Mexico;  
9 the executive director of the New Mexico association of  
10 counties; the director of the state-based property  
11 insurance carrier trade association represented in the study  
12 group; and the executive director of the New Mexico municipal  
13 league.

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