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HOUSE MEMORIAL 36

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Meredith A. Dixon and Cathrynn N. Brown

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TO STUDY THE BENEFITS AND COSTS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATUTORY AND RULE CHANGES TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a significant history with the nuclear energy industry and is home to several facilities focused on nuclear energy research, enrichment and storage; and

WHEREAS, uranium, a metal that serves as fuel for nuclear energy, has been mined extensively in New Mexico since approximately 1950; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico also has a long history of traumas resulting from uranium mining, including high rates of illness, lung cancer and deaths among those involved in the industry; and

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1 WHEREAS, there are efforts underway to identify
2 economically feasible, safer and more efficient ways to produce
3 and transport nuclear energy; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2022, the university of New Mexico received
5 funding from the United States department of energy to support
6 three nuclear power research projects, including work to
7 develop small, next-generation nuclear reactors; and

8 WHEREAS, there are potential benefits and costs to
9 increasing the state's production and use of nuclear energy,
10 and the university of New Mexico is positioned well to research
11 and report on those costs and benefits and any recommended
12 revisions to state law, given the depth of expertise and
13 experience of its faculty and students;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the university
16 of New Mexico be requested to:

17 A. study the costs and benefits associated with
18 development of the state's nuclear energy industry; and

19 B. make recommendations for statutory and rule
20 changes needed to support the operation of a safe and
21 productive nuclear energy industry in the state; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the university of New Mexico
23 report its findings and policy recommendations to the
24 appropriate interim legislative committee that studies issues
25 related to energy; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the president of the university of New Mexico.

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