

HOUSE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE MEMORIAL 20

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT TO DIRECT THE CREATION OF AN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE
STUDY GROUP TO STUDY AND DEVELOP OPTIONS TO ACCELERATE REVIEW
AND DEPLOYMENT OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, demand for electricity within the state is rising
rapidly, with the energy, minerals and natural resources
department projecting a forty-two percent increase by 2040; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for enhanced grid reliability and
increased capacity for energy generation, storage and
transmission; and

WHEREAS, the statewide expansion of community- and
utility-scale energy presents significant opportunities for job
creation, workforce development and broader economic
advancement across every region, with employment in the sector

1 growing at more than twice the rate of overall state
2 employment; and

3 WHEREAS, the state's abundance of high-quality energy
4 resources offers an opportunity to reduce costs for ratepayers;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, bottlenecks in grid modernization and the slow
7 deployment of energy and supporting infrastructure have
8 constrained the state's ability to meet growing energy demand,
9 reach clean energy goals, support continued job creation and
10 provide lower utility rates; and

11 WHEREAS, the effective deployment of community- and
12 utility-scale energy requires an approval process that is
13 swift, certain and fair, reasonably safeguards land, water,
14 wildlife and scenic resources and ensures meaningful public
15 participation and appropriate judicial oversight;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy,
18 minerals and natural resources department be requested to
19 direct the creation of a study group and make recommendations
20 to the appropriate interim legislative committee on a
21 comprehensive statewide approach, including administrative,
22 legislative and judicial considerations, to accelerate review
23 of community- and utility-scale energy infrastructure; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the study group
25 in developing recommendations include examining existing

1 federal, state and local permitting requirements applicable to
2 community- and utility-scale energy infrastructure projects and
3 identifying opportunities to streamline project reviews;
4 discerning mechanisms to improve clarity and predictability in
5 permitting decisions, including standardized guidelines and
6 coordinated interagency processes; determining best practices
7 to ensure meaningful public participation without creating
8 undue delays; evaluating the benefits of joining a regional
9 transmission organization; and facilitating collaboration among
10 state agencies and industry and stakeholder groups to develop a
11 framework that allows for the timely and efficient deployment
12 of community- and utility-scale energy infrastructure; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group be composed of
14 at least sixteen members consisting of:

15 A. one member each appointed by the secretary of
16 energy, minerals and natural resources from the following
17 agencies and stakeholder entities: the energy, minerals and
18 natural resources department; the New Mexico renewable energy
19 transmission authority; the public regulation commission; the
20 state land office; the department of game and fish; the Indian
21 affairs department; the New Mexico association of counties; and
22 the New Mexico municipal league;

23 B. eight additional members to be appointed by the
24 secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources from
25 industry or nongovernmental organizations with relevant

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1 expertise, including electric utilities, rural electric
2 cooperatives, energy project developers, transmission
3 developers, energy trade associations, tribal energy entities,
4 other stakeholders with expertise relating to energy
5 infrastructure and at least two representatives from
6 environmental or conservation organizations; and

7 C. representatives from relevant federal agencies,
8 invited by the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
9 resources; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and
11 natural resources department be requested to coordinate the
12 activities of the study group, including regular meetings and a
13 final report detailing the findings and recommendations of the
14 study group; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group be requested
16 to present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate
17 interim legislative committee on or before November 1, 2026;
18 and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
21 council; the governor; the secretary of energy, minerals and
22 natural resources; the commissioner of public lands; the chair
23 of the public regulation commission; the executive director of
24 the New Mexico renewable energy transmission authority; the
25 director of the department of game and fish; the secretary of

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1 Indian affairs; the executive director of the New Mexico
2 association of counties; and the executive director of the New
3 Mexico municipal league.

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