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HOUSE MEMORIAL 20

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT TO DIRECT THE CREATION OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY  
INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY GROUP TO STUDY AND DEVELOP OPTIONS TO  
ACCELERATE REVIEW AND DEPLOYMENT OF RENEWABLE 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, the growing occurrence of climate-related  
disasters and more frequent extreme weather events have  
underscored the dire need for enhanced grid reliability and  
increased capacity for energy generation, storage and  
transmission; and

WHEREAS, the state has committed to ambitious and

1 necessary energy transition goals that require public utilities  
2 and rural electric cooperatives to take steps to achieve zero  
3 carbon electricity generation over the next twenty years,  
4 ensuring a clean and reliable energy system; and

5 WHEREAS, the statewide expansion of community- and  
6 utility-scale renewable energy presents significant  
7 opportunities for job creation, workforce development and  
8 broader economic advancement across every region, with  
9 employment in the sector growing at more than twice the rate of  
10 overall state employment; and

11 WHEREAS, the state's abundance of high-quality renewable  
12 resources offers an unparalleled opportunity to reduce costs  
13 for ratepayers, offset reliance on fossil fuels and stabilize  
14 energy prices; and

15 WHEREAS, bottlenecks in grid modernization and the slow  
16 deployment of community- and utility-scale renewable energy and  
17 supporting infrastructure have constrained the state's ability  
18 to meet growing energy demand, reach clean energy goals,  
19 support continued job creation and provide lower utility rates;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the effective deployment of community- and  
22 utility-scale renewable energy requires an approval process  
23 that is swift, certain and fair, reasonably safeguards land,  
24 water, wildlife and scenic resources and ensures meaningful  
25 public participation and appropriate judicial oversight;

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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 direct the creation of a study group and make recommendations  
5 to the appropriate interim legislative committee on a  
6 comprehensive statewide approach, including administrative,  
7 legislative and judicial considerations, to accelerate review  
8 of community- and utility-scale renewable energy  
9 infrastructure; and

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the study group  
11 in developing recommendations include examining existing  
12 federal, state and local permitting requirements applicable to  
13 community- and utility-scale renewable energy infrastructure  
14 projects and identifying opportunities to streamline project  
15 reviews; discerning mechanisms to improve clarity and  
16 predictability in permitting decisions, including standardized  
17 guidelines and coordinated interagency processes; determining  
18 best practices to ensure meaningful public participation  
19 without creating undue delays; evaluating the benefits of  
20 joining a regional transmission organization; and facilitating  
21 collaboration among state agencies and industry and stakeholder  
22 groups to develop a framework that allows for the timely and  
23 efficient deployment of community- and utility-scale renewable  
24 energy infrastructure; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group be composed of

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1 fourteen members, appointed by the secretary of energy,  
2 minerals and natural resources, consisting of:

3 A. one member each appointed from the following  
4 agencies and stakeholder entities: the energy, minerals and  
5 natural resources department; the New Mexico renewable energy  
6 transmission authority; the public regulation commission; the  
7 state land office; the department of game and fish; the New  
8 Mexico association of counties; and the New Mexico municipal  
9 league; and

10 B. seven additional members to be appointed from  
11 industry or nongovernmental organizations with relevant  
12 expertise, including electric utilities, rural electric  
13 cooperatives, renewable energy project developers, transmission  
14 developers, clean energy trade associations, tribal energy  
15 entities, other stakeholders with expertise relating to  
16 renewable energy infrastructure and at least one representative  
17 from an environmental or conservation organization; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
19 natural resources department be requested to coordinate the  
20 activities of the study group, including regular meetings and a  
21 final report detailing the findings and recommendations of the  
22 study group; and

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

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1 and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
4 council; the governor; the secretary of energy, minerals and  
5 natural resources; the commissioner of public lands; the chair  
6 of the public regulation commission; the executive director of  
7 the New Mexico renewable energy transmission authority; the  
8 director of the department of game and fish; the executive  
9 director of the New Mexico association of counties; and the  
10 executive director of the New Mexico municipal league.

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