

HOUSE MEMORIAL 20

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

INTRODUCED BY

Matthew McQueen and Tara L. Lujan and Debra M. Sariñana
and Joanne J. Ferry

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

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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;

.232734.3

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group be composed of

•232734•3

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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;

.232734.3

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.

11 - 5 -
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

.232734.3