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SENATE MEMORIAL 4

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Raymond L. Kysar

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE CARSON NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR TO WITHDRAW
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CARSON NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE JICARILLA RANGER DISTRICT.**

**WHEREAS, the United States depends upon the availability
of energy supplies to protect the health and safety of its
citizens, to provide for the payment for services such as
education and infrastructure, to provide for economic stability
and to provide for continued economic progress and growth; and**

**WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is a national leader in
the production of natural gas and oil, which has benefited the
citizens of this state through the payment of taxes and
royalties, the creation of jobs and the provision of supplies
and services used by that industry and has benefited the nation
by supplying needed energy resources; and**

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1 WHEREAS, significant reserves of oil and natural gas are
2 located on federal lands controlled by the United States forest
3 service of the department of agriculture and the bureau of land
4 management of the department of the interior; and

5 WHEREAS, lands controlled by the forest service in the San
6 Juan basin of northwest New Mexico located within the Jicarilla
7 ranger district of the Carson national forest contain more than
8 one trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas resources;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the staff of the Carson national forest is
11 proposing to eliminate development access to more than two-
12 thirds of the natural gas resources in the Jicarilla ranger
13 district; and

14 WHEREAS, the bureau of land management has recently
15 completed an extensive planning process and has published a
16 revised resource management plan for the entire New Mexico
17 portion of the San Juan basin, including the Jicarilla ranger
18 district; and

19 WHEREAS, the forest service has recently published its own
20 draft environmental impact statement, which has not adequately
21 addressed the responsible development of energy resources
22 within the Jicarilla ranger district and has not coordinated
23 its regulation of development with the bureau of land
24 management resource plan; and

25 WHEREAS, the draft environmental impact statement

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1 threatens to reduce the available supply of natural gas from
2 the Jicarilla ranger district by more than sixty-eight percent,
3 and this reduction threatens the availability of revenue to
4 fund education, health and safety programs that would benefit
5 the citizens of New Mexico and threatens economic stability and
6 job growth in New Mexico's less advantaged and poorest rural
7 areas; and

8 WHEREAS, it is possible to regulate the development of
9 natural gas reserves using methods that are prudent for the
10 health and safety of citizens to provide for the multiple use
11 of federal lands; to provide energy supplies for the benefit of
12 the citizens of New Mexico and the nation and to provide needed
13 revenues for governmental operations and economic growth;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
15 OF NEW MEXICO that the Carson national forest and forest
16 service of the United States department of agriculture be
17 encouraged to withdraw the pending proposal to change the
18 Carson national forest management plan for the Jicarilla ranger
19 district and the draft environmental impact statement issued to
20 support that proposal; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Carson national forest and
22 forest service of the United States department of agriculture
23 be encouraged to study alternatives that will increase the
24 availability of energy resources from the Jicarilla ranger
25 district; increase local, state and federal government revenues

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1 from those resources; increase the economic and job growth
2 resulting from energy production; ensure the use of the
3 Jicarilla ranger district for multiple purposes; and
4 appropriately protect the environment of New Mexico; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the forest service of the
6 United States department of agriculture and the bureau of land
7 management of the United States department of the interior be
8 encouraged to take the steps necessary to more efficiently and
9 effectively regulate federal lands and natural resources for
10 the benefit of citizens of New Mexico and the nation; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the governor; the attorney general; the
13 commissioner of public lands; the supervisor of the Carson
14 national forest; the regional forester of United States forest
15 region III; the chief of the United States forest service; the
16 secretary of the United States department of agriculture; the
17 state director of the bureau of land management of the United
18 States department of the interior; the director of the bureau
19 of land management; the secretary of the United States
20 department of the interior; the director of the White House
21 task force on energy project streamlining; the chair of the
22 United States committee on energy and natural resources; the
23 chair of the United States house committee on resources;
24 members of the New Mexico congressional delegation; the chair
25 of the United States senate committee on agriculture, nutrition

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1 and forestry; and the chair of the United States house
2 committee on agriculture.

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