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HOUSE MEMORIAL 49

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Brian K. Moore

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE USE OF RENEWABLE
ENERGY WITHIN THE SERVICE TERRITORIES OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has significant renewable energy
resources, from wind to biomass to solar to geothermal; and

WHEREAS, many of these resources are available in rural
areas of the state where economic development is needed to
support communities, families and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Governor Richardson and the legislature have made
a high priority of bringing these renewable resources to
market; and

WHEREAS, the west and the southwest are developing strong
appetites for renewable energy, as attested by California's
twenty percent renewable energy requirement, with a deadline

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1 expected to be moved to 2010 later this year, and the new ten
2 percent renewable energy requirement passed by Colorado voters
3 in 2004; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico has also adopted a renewable energy
5 requirement of ten percent by 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, many rural areas are served by cooperative
7 electrical associations, rather than utilities, and by
8 generating and transmission cooperatives that provide energy
9 transmission; and

10 WHEREAS, the governor and the legislature want to help
11 local electric cooperatives and local businesses achieve their
12 goals for new renewable energy generation and transmission;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy,
15 minerals and natural resources department be requested to
16 convene a task force, to be composed of representatives of New
17 Mexico electric cooperatives, businesses, ranchers and farmers
18 interested in renewable energy generation and transmission, the
19 public regulation commission and any other appropriate state
20 agencies, including the transmission and storage authority
21 proposed in Senate Bill 627 and House Bill 748 of the first
22 session of the forty-seventh legislature, should either bill
23 become law, for the purposes of:

24 A. exploring ways in which the state can encourage
25 and support the development and transmission of rural renewable

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1 energy resources; and

2 B. providing a forum for public outreach and input
3 on New Mexico's rural renewable energy potential; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force hold meetings
5 in different areas of the state to enable energy consumers in
6 different electric cooperative service territories to provide
7 input; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report back to
9 the governor and the appropriate interim legislative committee
10 by October 1, 2005 with recommendations for state legislation,
11 funding alternatives and policies that could encourage
12 renewable energy development in rural areas of New Mexico
13 within electric cooperative service territories; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
16 resources and the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative
17 council.