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A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY STAFF TO NEW MEXICO AND ENCOURAGING EFFORTS TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF THE CONSOLIDATION TO THE NATIONAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY AND THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the main facility of the national solar observatory is currently located in Sunspot, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, a call for proposals from the national science foundation to consolidate the national solar observatory scientific and engineering staff to a single university campus is expected to be issued in early 2010; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico state university, the university of New Mexico and the New Mexico institute of mining and technology desire to retain the national solar observatory within the state and to have New Mexico state university host it on its Las Cruces campus; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico state university's science, engineering and mathematics departments and its physical science laboratory will directly benefit from interactions with the national solar observatory as it will allow for better recruitment of excellent faculty, increase the quality of education for graduate and undergraduate students and accommodate joint research programs between New Mexico's universities and the national solar observatory; and

1 WHEREAS, there is a potential that one hundred jobs
2 could be created in Dona Ana county with a yearly labor
3 income impact of six million dollars (\$6,000,000); and

4 WHEREAS, these high-paying jobs will not be created in
5 New Mexico unless a compelling state response to the
6 anticipated national science foundation call for proposals is
7 constructed; and

8 WHEREAS, other groups will aggressively seek to relocate
9 the national solar observatory to their states;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its support for the
12 consolidation of national solar observatory staff to New
13 Mexico and that it encourage efforts to maximize the benefits
14 of the consolidation to the national solar observatory and
15 the people of New Mexico; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the directors of the national solar observatory
18 and the national science foundation and to the board of
19 regents of New Mexico state university.

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