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HOUSE MEMORIAL 54

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CONSIDER CLEAN ENERGY
LEGISLATION THAT HEIGHTENS NATIONAL ENERGY AND ECONOMIC
SECURITY, PROMOTES INNOVATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS AND
ADDRESSES THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

WHEREAS, the United States congress may consider
legislation that promotes clean energy development and use,
reduces pollution, limits dependence on foreign energy sources
and creates economic opportunities that bring jobs; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the oil and approximately
fifteen percent of the natural gas consumed in the United
States come from foreign sources; and

WHEREAS, many states, including New Mexico, have adopted
renewable energy standards and goals that require a significant
percentage of a state's electricity to be generated from non-

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1 fossil-fuel renewable energy sources such as wind, solar,
2 hydropower and biomass, which sources have led to significant
3 job growth in the clean energy sector of the state and national
4 economy; and

5 WHEREAS, the generation of electricity through the use of
6 renewable energy presents opportunities to promote energy self-
7 sufficiency, create jobs and economic benefits and preserve
8 natural resources; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2009, New Mexico adopted the Renewable Energy
10 Financing District Act, which recognizes the public benefit of
11 renewable energy by authorizing local governments to provide an
12 innovative financing mechanism to property owners to facilitate
13 the development and installation of renewable energy
14 improvements on their property. That development and
15 installation advances the security, economic well-being and
16 public and environmental health of the state; and contributes
17 to the energy independence of the nation; and

18 WHEREAS, a 2009 study by the Pew charitable trusts reveals
19 that the growth of clean energy economy jobs in New Mexico is
20 greater than for other parts of its economy and that a
21 significant portion of the state's venture capital in the past
22 ten years has been in the clean energy field; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States now spends approximately one
24 billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) a day to import oil. Through
25 2030, the energy information administration of the United

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1 States department of energy estimates that the country's
2 reliance on foreign oil could cost eight and one-half trillion
3 dollars (\$8,500,000,000,000), even without accounting for
4 inflation; and

5 WHEREAS, the economic consequences of this country's
6 dependence on foreign oil are evident; American wealth is being
7 transferred to nations that are rich with oil, and those
8 nations are not always politically stable or friendly to the
9 United States. The United States is trading its capital, a
10 resource that can grow and multiply, for a volatile and finite
11 commodity from foreign sources; and

12 WHEREAS, United States Senator Pete V. Domenici reported
13 to the energy information administration in 2008 that
14 dependence on oil imports may deprive the nation of more than
15 two million jobs per year; and

16 WHEREAS, high oil prices reduce the purchasing power of
17 American consumers, spur inflation and boost the prices of
18 basic goods and services; and

19 WHEREAS, as reported by the national conference of state
20 legislatures, our nation's military leaders recognize that the
21 effects of climate change include the likelihood of increases
22 in political and social instability in poorer regions of the
23 world, thus presenting potential security challenges for the
24 United States; and

25 WHEREAS, there is worldwide competition for clean energy

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1 development; therefore, comprehensive federal clean energy jobs
2 and climate legislation can position the United States' clean
3 energy economic development efforts to be competitive
4 internationally and to deter outsourcing of that economic
5 opportunity to foreign interests; and

6 WHEREAS, while states, including New Mexico, have shown
7 leadership in moving to a clean energy economy, the result is
8 that American industry and business face a patchwork of state
9 clean energy requirements, emissions standards, regulations and
10 incentives. A national framework for clean energy would
11 eliminate this varied and inconsistent approach by providing a
12 predictable regulatory scheme that spurs innovation and
13 discovery in the clean energy sector;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United
16 States congress be requested to consider legislation that
17 promotes clean energy development and use, reduces pollution,
18 limits dependence on foreign energy sources and creates
19 economic opportunities that bring jobs; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
22 delegation and to the chief clerks of the United States house
23 of representatives and the United States senate, for
24 distribution to the appropriate committees.

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