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HOUSE MEMORIAL 48

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Zachary J. Cook

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO
EXPLORE OPTIONS ON HOW BEST TO STIMULATE NEW MEXICO'S ECONOMY
BY USING THE NATURAL RESOURCES THAT THE STATE IS BLESSED WITH
AND HELPING THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY IN NEW MEXICO TO
PROVIDE MORE JOBS IN THE FORESTED AND OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE.

WHEREAS, revitalizing the forest products industry in New
Mexico is a perfect example of how the state could encourage
the creation of more jobs in the forested and other areas of
the state; and

WHEREAS, nearly twenty-one percent, or sixteen million
seven hundred thousand acres, of the land area of New Mexico is
forest land; and

WHEREAS, nearly forty-nine percent of forest land in the
state is administered by the United States forest service; and

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1 WHEREAS, since the 1980s, New Mexico's timber harvest has
2 declined dramatically, caused largely by decreases in the
3 harvest from national forests; and

4 WHEREAS, this decline was brought on by a combination of
5 pressures related to threatened and endangered species and
6 appeals and litigation directed at federal timber sales; and

7 WHEREAS, this decline has resulted in the loss of
8 thousands of jobs and the closing of dozens of sawmills; and

9 WHEREAS, although the federal Endangered Species Act of
10 1973 was introduced with the best of intentions, it has had
11 grave effects on the economy, culture and customs of New
12 Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, the state should explore whether it can better
14 manage its endangered and threatened species on its own through
15 the Wildlife Conservation Act, while preserving local culture,
16 customs and jobs;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the appropriate
19 legislative interim committee dealing with economic and rural
20 development be requested to explore options on how best to
21 stimulate New Mexico's economy by using the natural resources
22 that the state is blessed with and helping the forest products
23 industry in New Mexico to provide more jobs in the forested and
24 other areas of the state; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee consider whether

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1 the state, through the Wildlife Conservation Act, can take over
2 administration of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 in
3 a manner that better serves the interests of the state; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee seek testimony
5 from the state forester, the department of game and fish, the
6 New Mexico forest and watershed restoration institute and
7 representatives from the forest products industry on how best
8 to use and manage the forest land in the state and report its
9 findings to the second session of the fiftieth legislature; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the state forester, the department of game and
12 fish, the New Mexico forest and watershed restoration institute
13 and the New Mexico legislative council.