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SENATE MEMORIAL 69

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

INTRODUCED BY

William F. Burt

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