

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 59

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO COOPERATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF A PREFERRED ALIGNMENT FOR THE SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has vast undeveloped renewable resources in the forms of wind, solar and geothermal energy that are stranded due to lack of transmission infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, estimates of developable wind resources in the New Mexico central highlands exceed ten thousand megawatts; and

WHEREAS, estimates of developable solar resources along the interstate 10 corridor in southwestern New Mexico exceed five thousand megawatts; and

WHEREAS, few of these resources will be developed for

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1 export to markets and customers without substantial new  
2 transmission infrastructure; and

3 WHEREAS, the SunZia southwest transmission project  
4 represents such necessary transmission infrastructure and is in  
5 the process of receiving an environmental impact statement; and

6 WHEREAS, the bureau of land management is acting as the  
7 lead federal agency conducting the environmental impact  
8 statement for the SunZia southwest transmission project; and

9 WHEREAS, the bureau of land management has conducted  
10 twelve public meetings, eight of which were in New Mexico, to  
11 describe the proposed project and obtain input from the public;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the department of defense has opposed all  
14 alternative alignments in New Mexico proposed in the  
15 environmental impact statement, including alternatives with  
16 reasonable and feasible mitigation to military objections; and

17 WHEREAS, the development of New Mexico's renewable energy  
18 resources for export to markets and customers is a matter of  
19 economic policy that is crucial to the future of the state; and

20 WHEREAS, the development is consistent with the national  
21 policy of reducing the nation's dependence on foreign energy  
22 while lessening production of greenhouse gases; and

23 WHEREAS, the legislature supports the purpose of and need  
24 for the SunZia southwest transmission project; and

25 WHEREAS, both the essential mission of the military and

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1 the need for the renewable transmission infrastructure proposed  
2 by the SunZia southwest transmission project can coexist;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of interior and the  
5 department of defense be requested to cooperate in the  
6 determination of the preferred alignment for the SunZia  
7 southwest transmission project; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of interior, the  
10 secretary of defense and the New Mexico congressional  
11 delegation.