

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 38

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING ENERGY PRODUCED BY NUCLEAR POWER AS GREEN ENERGY.

12  
13 WHEREAS, nuclear energy is dependable, affordable and  
14 environmentally sound; and

15 WHEREAS, the American nuclear society believes that one of  
16 the most effective ways to reduce global carbon-dioxide  
17 emissions in the future is by making increasing use of nuclear  
18 energy to replace fossil fuels; and

19 WHEREAS, in an article in the April 2002 issue of *Nuclear*  
20 *News*, former federal secretary of energy, Spencer Abraham,  
21 stated that "nuclear power is a vital part of the nation's  
22 electricity supply; it has played a major role in supplying  
23 electricity in the United States for over three decades"; and

24 WHEREAS, according to Larry R. Foulk, former president of  
25 the American nuclear society, nuclear-generated electricity is

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1 among the cheapest electricity available today and is needed to  
2 meet the nation's increasing electricity demand; and

3 WHEREAS, today, many people believe that worldwide  
4 pollution is environmentally unacceptable and that the rising  
5 cost of oil and gas will soon be unacceptable as well; and

6 WHEREAS, the energy from nuclear fission is essentially  
7 inexhaustible, just as is the energy from sources traditionally  
8 considered as renewable; and

9 WHEREAS, other energy technologies with low-carbon-dioxide  
10 emissions, such as wind and solar energy, have a limited  
11 capacity and produce energy intermittently, requiring backup  
12 power generators or storage facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, nuclear energy is the nation's largest and only  
14 expandable source of continuously generated electricity with  
15 near-zero emissions; and

16 WHEREAS, nuclear reactors emit no greenhouse gases during  
17 operation and require less land use than most other forms of  
18 energy; and

19 WHEREAS, in the long term, nuclear power can directly  
20 reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil by producing  
21 hydrogen for fuel cells and by producing synthetic, liquid  
22 fuels to power trains, subway cars and automobiles; and

23 WHEREAS, according to Peter Huber, author of *The*  
24 *Bottomless Well: The Twilight of Fuel, the Virtue of Waste and*  
25 *Why We Will Never Run Out of Energy*, the economy is

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1 increasingly using energy in the form of electricity, stating  
2 that more than ninety percent of the growth in energy demand  
3 since 1980 has been met by electricity; and

4 WHEREAS, the American nuclear society estimates that over  
5 the next twenty years, the United States will need four hundred  
6 thousand megawatts of new, continuously generated electric  
7 generating capacity to meet the new electricity demand; and

8 WHEREAS, the American nuclear society believes that the  
9 process of licensing new nuclear power plants can be both  
10 predictable and timely, while still being thorough enough that  
11 the federal nuclear regulatory commission can effectively  
12 discharge its mandate to protect public health and safety; and

13 WHEREAS, a goal of the federal department of energy's  
14 nuclear power 2010 program is to build momentum toward a  
15 "nuclear renaissance" in which nuclear plants are effective  
16 options for zero-carbon electricity production; and

17 WHEREAS, nuclear energy could be the dominant source of  
18 clean energy of the future;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that energy produced by nuclear power be  
21 recognized as green energy in New Mexico; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
23 natural resources department be urged to include nuclear power  
24 as a green initiative under the top ten energy solutions for  
25 the state; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of environment  
2 acknowledge that nuclear energy is a clean and efficient source  
3 of energy that can conserve resources and protect the  
4 environment; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
7 resources, the secretary of environment and the governor.

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