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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO JOINTLY STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPEDITE FOREST RESTORATION THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's forests have a high risk of wildfire and require significant thinning and watershed restoration to reduce hazards and protect communities, source waters and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, forest and watershed restoration generates wood byproducts that are costly to process and remove without viable markets, which limits the pace and scale of restoration activities necessary to reduce wildfire risk; and

WHEREAS, state incentives are needed to drive innovation in wood utilization, create markets that promote sustainable tree thinning and reduce the overall cost of forest and watershed restoration for the public good; and

WHEREAS, recommendations are needed to encourage investment in the wood utilization sector and accelerate forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural resources department and the economic development department be requested to study and jointly develop recommendations

1 regarding:

2 A. what business opportunities are missing in
3 New Mexico that are needed to develop a fully functioning,
4 sustainable wood products economy, including to retain
5 workforce and succession planning;

6 B. what incentives, legal actions, financial
7 mechanisms and partnerships are needed to reduce logistical
8 costs of moving wood byproducts from remote forests to
9 regional processing facilities and increase the economic
10 viability of New Mexico's wood utilization sector;

11 C. what programs, policies, laws and practices
12 exist in other states that have successful wood utilization
13 programs that can be adapted to New Mexico's unique economic
14 and environmental context;

15 D. what new or existing state programs and
16 incentives can be leveraged to foster industry expansion,
17 attract capital investment, create jobs and ensure local and
18 state contributions yield a strong return on investment
19 through performance-based evaluations; and

20 E. what incentives, legal actions and regulations
21 are needed to ensure healthy forests that will reduce
22 wildfire risk; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and
24 natural resources department and the economic development
25 department report findings and conclusions to the appropriate

1 interim legislative committees dealing with natural resources
2 and economic development by September 1, 2025; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
5 resources and the secretary of economic development for
6 appropriate distribution. _____

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