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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Meredith A. Dixon and Andrea Romero

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY TO
STUDY THE BENEFITS AND COSTS OF DIRECT AIR CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY
AND REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATUTORY AND RULE CHANGES TO
FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIRECT AIR CAPTURE INDUSTRY
IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, the increase of greenhouse gases in the
atmosphere is associated with hotter temperatures, sea level
rise, more severe storms, loss of species, crop failures,
health risks and increased drought and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the removal of carbon dioxide directly from the
air is an important part of the effort to reach net-zero
greenhouse gas emissions and eventually transition to net-
negative greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of energy has

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1 initiated the regional direct air capture hubs program to
2 develop four direct air capture hubs that will demonstrate
3 direct air capture technology at a commercial scale and have
4 the potential to capture at least one million metric tons of
5 carbon dioxide annually from the atmosphere and permanently
6 store the carbon dioxide in a geologic formation or convert it
7 into new products; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2024, Oklahoma opened the largest direct air
9 capture facility in the United States, which is capable of
10 extracting five thousand metric tons of carbon dioxide per
11 year; and

12 WHEREAS, a direct air capture facility is being
13 constructed in Texas that would have the capability of
14 extracting one million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico has favorable conditions for the
17 development of direct air capture technology, including
18 geologic suitability for carbon storage, resources for low-
19 carbon sources of heat and electricity and optimal climate and
20 atmospheric conditions for direct air capture system operation;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, direct air capture operations and technology
23 could provide economic benefits to the state by creating jobs
24 in construction, manufacturing and other sectors and increasing
25 tax revenue and investment in emerging technology;

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico institute of mining and
3 technology be requested to:

4 A. study the benefits and costs of sequestering
5 carbon dioxide emissions through direct air capture technology
6 in the state; and

7 B. make recommendations for statutory and rule
8 changes to facilitate the development of the direct air capture
9 industry in the state, address the climate crisis and create
10 jobs; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico institute of
12 mining and technology report its findings and recommendations
13 to the appropriate interim committee dealing with issues
14 concerning natural resources; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the president of the New Mexico institute of
17 mining and technology.