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City of Bayard

City of Bayard
Resolution 31-2022

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City of Bayard SUPPORTS NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO ADVANCE AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY in the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session

WHEREAS the **City of Bayard** understands the need for renewable energy and that its storage is among the cleanest sources of energy with which New Mexican residences and businesses can power its establishments to achieve better air quality and reduce greenhouse gas pollution; and;

WHEREAS, the **City of Bayard**, like many state and local governments in New Mexico, are aware and are beginning to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions through implementing energy efficiency, waste reduction, recycling, water conservation, fleet efficiency and renewable energy production in our Water Treatment facilities and operations; and

WHEREAS, the **City of Bayard**, we want to encourage and work with the State of New Mexico, other counties, Native American Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations, and local governments to continue to prioritize the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bayard, the New Mexico State Legislature, New Mexican counties, Native American Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations, and local governments have significant opportunities to provide incentives and resources to reduce greenhouse gas emission, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Bayard, proposes Local Choice Energy Act (LCE) will allow for our expansion of renewable energy generation, municipal aggregation of energy demand, and procurement; and

WHEREAS, City of Bayard, supports the LCE stimulates local wealth creation, will increase our revenue for the City of Bayard and our investments in our infrastructure, lowers costs for high quality energy, give our community and residents in Grant County a choice in how we generate and purchase energy, supports innovation and resiliency, and creates jobs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bayard, the LCE will enable our and municipality to leverage unprecedented federal funds forthcoming from the Inflation Reduction Act and the Justice40 initiative by making it easier for us to create municipal utilities to manage microgrid and renewable energy projects; and

WHEREAS millions of people in the United States are already served by local choice energy providers known as Community Choice Aggregates (CCAs) in thousands of communities in ten states; and;

WHEREAS, A community, like the City of Bayard, served by one of these providers may enjoy utility rates that are 15-20% lower than what they would pay investor-owned utilities; and

WHEREAS CCAs utilize renewable energy and are a key part of reducing our carbon footprint; and

WHEREAS CCAs are a proven powerful tool that involves the partnership of utilities, developers, community groups, local governments, state governments, and other industry actors in fulfilling objectives to meet carbon neutrality goals, catalyze community resilience safety and greater security, create impactful technology and infrastructure, generate more community wealth, and advance community benefits; and

WHEREAS, many CCA communities have developed programs that prioritize the empowerment of low-income residents in their transition to clean energy. For example, in 2021, some New York CCA communities participated in Community Distributed Generation ("CDG") projects. These projects enabled participating CCAs to automatically serve close to 100% of low-income residents in their locality with solar CDG bill credits; and

WHEREAS, CCA communities have demonstrated many success stories since first being implemented in Massachusetts in the mid-1990s, including their ability to deliver on renewable power investment, replicate and scale, while targeting climate and Justice40 goals, and;

WHEREAS, the Local Choice Energy Act advances the environmental sustainability goals of **City of Bayard**, including carbon neutrality, ecological resilience, economic vitality, quality of life, and social equity.

THAT the **City of Bayard, Deputy City Clerk** will send a letter to each member of our state legislative delegation as well as the Governor with this request and a copy of this Resolution as ultimately approved by the City of Bayard and ensure that this request is included in our legislative requests for the 2023 Legislative Session.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Resolved THAT the **CITY OF BAYARD** supports legislation adopting Local Choice Energy this 12th Day of December 2022.

Chon Fierro, Mayor
Raul Villanueva, Mayor Pro-tem
Eloy Medina, City Councilor
Frances Gonzales, City Councilor
Jose Diaz, City Councilor