

**State of New Mexico
County of Grant**

Resolution # R-04-03

SUPPORT FOR FORT BAYARD BIOMASS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Ft. Bayard Medical Center, operated by the New Mexico Department of Health, is a 250-bed, long-term-care nursing facility, which provides 388 jobs in Grant County; and,

WHEREAS, the buildings located at Ft. Bayard are circa 1920 construction and the facility is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and,

WHEREAS, the Medical Center's heat is provided by steam boilers that operate on natural gas and diesel which causes Ft. Bayard to spend approximately \$140,000 on natural gas per year; and,

WHEREAS, in an effort to gain control of energy costs, Ft. Bayard Medical Center and the Department of Health have been working in collaboration with the U. S. Forest Service, General Services Department, the State of New Mexico, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, and local private/public entities in Grant County to utilize wood chips coming from thinning projects as a fuel source to operate Ft. Bayard's steam boilers; and,

WHEREAS, the Ft. Bayard Medical Facility-Biomass to Energy Project was developed in response to rising energy costs at Ft. Bayard and the availability of wood chips from nearby Gila National Forest thinning projects; and,

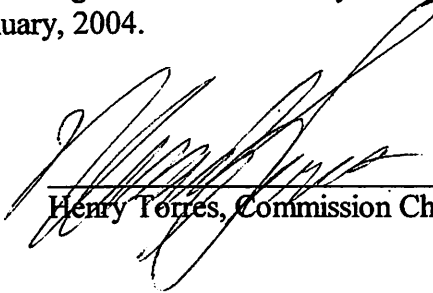
WHEREAS, the project proposes the installation of a commercially available wood chip or pellet boilers system intended to serve as a biomass-to-energy model that may be replicated throughout the state;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Grant County Commission that:


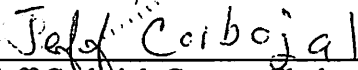
- 1) We support reduced energy consumption and costs while using a renewable energy source at a state facility, which provides long-term-care services to the elderly and jobs to the community.
- 2) We recognize that reduced energy costs will allow funds to be redirected to the facility's primary mission.
- 3) We recognize that this project will advance the Governor's goal of government "leading by example."
- 4) We recognize that this project will further advance the Governor's goals regarding renewable energy, forest health and tax dollar savings.

- 5) We support local community economic development and encourage the purchase of local energy thereby keeping dollars in the community.
- 6) We wish to help develop the project through a collaborative effort among federal, state and local governments and the private sector.
- 7) We recognize that removing forest thinnings for productive use in energy projects, will reduce fire risk and improve forest health.
- 8) We support the implementation of a project with wood supply through established thinning projects, with close proximity between wood feedstock and point of use and compatible facility design.
- 9) We understand the need to showcase the use of forest thinnings in an energy project.
- 10) We support the need to provide a case-study demonstration that could be replicated at other state facilities.

Approved and adopted in an regular meeting of the Grant County Board of County Commissioners on this 29th day of January, 2004.


Henry Torres, Commission Chairman

Attest:



Jeff Carbajal, County Clerk

By 