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HOUSE MEMORIAL 84

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Derrick J. Lente and Sheryl Williams Stapleton

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT CONDUCT A REVIEW OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS ON A COUNTY-BY-COUNTY BASIS; REQUESTING A REPORT.

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2018, the national oceanic and atmospheric administration issued a report on the costs of weather and climate events in 2017 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there were sixteen extreme weather and climate events in the United States in 2017 that created damages in excess of one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) each; and

WHEREAS, the total national cost of weather and climate events for 2017 set a new record at approximately three hundred six billion dollars (\$306,000,000,000); and

WHEREAS, the damages from wildfires in the western United

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1 States in 2017 totaled approximately eighteen billion dollars
2 (\$18,000,000,000), three times the previous record; and

3 WHEREAS, final figures for 2017 for weather disaster
4 damage costs for New Mexico and a breakdown on a county-by-
5 county basis are not currently available to the public; and

6 WHEREAS, small rural and farming communities typically
7 have limited internal resources to both prepare for and respond
8 to weather disaster events, which increases their reliance on
9 statewide planning and assistance; and

10 WHEREAS, post-event review is critical to improving
11 response efforts and communications systems for both state-to-
12 local-agency and agency-to-general-public communications
13 regarding natural disasters; and

14 WHEREAS, on January 23, 2018, the national integrated
15 drought information system published drought monitor statistics
16 and a map for New Mexico showing that nearly ninety-four
17 percent of New Mexico is experiencing drought conditions and
18 nearly sixty percent is categorized as experiencing "severe
19 drought"; and

20 WHEREAS, while a drought is often an incrementally
21 developing event, it can create the conditions for rapid
22 catastrophic events;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the homeland
25 security and emergency management department be requested to

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1 conduct a review of the damaging weather and climate events in
2 2017 in New Mexico, to include:

3 A. an analysis of the adequacy of emergency
4 preparation, response and communications systems for these
5 events on a county-by-county basis;

6 B. recommendations to improve emergency
7 preparation, response and communications systems for each
8 county, with cost estimates for each type of improvement; and

9 C. a summary of the available federal, state and
10 nonprofit funding sources that are currently available for
11 emergency system improvements, including trends in the
12 availability of those funds; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting its review, the
14 homeland security and emergency management department actively
15 engage county and tribal governments and the acequia
16 commissions and boards of the land grants-mercedes in each
17 county; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the homeland security and
19 emergency management department report its findings and
20 recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative
21 committee prior to that committee's final meeting in 2018; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of homeland security and emergency
24 management.