

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE A
3 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM RURAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE.

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5 WHEREAS, vast disparities continue to exist between
6 rural and urban communities in New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, a coordinated, comprehensive and bipartisan
8 effort is needed to address these disparities and improve the
9 quality of life for all rural New Mexicans; and

10 WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic provided
11 evidence that rural communities suffer disproportionately due
12 to a lack of basic services, such as running water,
13 wastewater treatment services, electricity, health care and
14 broadband internet; and

15 WHEREAS, input from rural frontiers, communities and
16 Native American communities is necessary to identify barriers
17 to economic and educational opportunities in rural
18 communities and to reduce or eliminate those barriers; and

19 WHEREAS, infrastructure, economic development, education
20 and health care in rural communities are in need of further
21 state funding and investment; and

22 WHEREAS, the creation of a legislative interim committee
23 to study and provide policy recommendations on matters
24 relating to rural opportunities would support and improve the
25 economy and the lives of all residents of New Mexico;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New
3 Mexico legislative council be requested to create a
4 legislative interim rural opportunity committee; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative interim
6 rural opportunity committee be composed of legislators from
7 each house so as to give equitable representation from rural
8 areas in each quadrant of the state and representation from
9 the membership of every other relevant interim committee; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be requested
11 to review issues affecting rural areas of the state; identify
12 barriers to economic and educational opportunities in rural
13 areas of the state and propose policies to reduce or
14 eliminate those barriers; assess all potential funding
15 sources and opportunities for investment in infrastructure,
16 economic development, education and health care in rural
17 areas of the state; develop a long-term plan to address rural
18 needs, including the development of a rural relief
19 legislative proposal that leverages bonding capacity, capital
20 outlay funding and general fund appropriations, to provide
21 for rural economic development; review current tax policy,
22 including credits, rebates and deductions, to ensure equity
23 between urban and rural communities; coordinate with the
24 office of the governor to develop proposals; propose
25 legislation to maximize public and private investments in

1 rural communities and to foster the health and well-being of
2 all residents of rural areas of the state; and develop a
3 legislative proposal to ensure access for every New Mexican
4 to running water, wastewater treatment services, electricity
5 and broadband internet that provides benchmarks and tracks
6 yearly progress; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be requested
8 to make a report of its findings and recommendations
9 available to the New Mexico legislative council on or before
10 December 15 preceding each legislative session for the
11 consideration of each session of the legislature; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be staffed by
13 the legislative council service with assistance from the
14 legislative finance committee; and

15 BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the speaker of the house of representatives,
17 the president pro tempore of the senate and the directors of
18 the legislative council service and the legislative finance
19 committee.

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