

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE STATE'S ABILITY TO RESPOND ADEQUATELY TO SEVERE WEATHER.

WHEREAS, New Mexicans endured severe flooding and snowstorms in the last several months, and it is certain that similarly severe weather events will occur in the future; and

WHEREAS, while in most cases state and local public safety, public works and public health agencies responded well to those severe weather events, it was apparent that a lack of preparation, poor communication, inadequate interagency and intergovernmental coordination, and other shortcomings hindered the response; and

WHEREAS, government's fundamental responsibility is to ensure the public's safety; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that New Mexicans and visitors to the state are timely and accurately informed about changing weather and environmental conditions, properly directed to safety, appropriately instructed about action to take and, if necessary, provided appropriate and timely aid and comfort;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be requested to direct the appropriate interim committee to study

and take testimony on the ability of state and local governmental agencies to adequately respond to severe weather and make recommendations to the second session of the forty-eighth legislature on how to improve that response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be delivered to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative council.