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A JOINT MEMORIAL

URGING CONGRESS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR NEW MEXICO'S
LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the cost of energy for residential use has been
increasing dramatically in the United States and in New
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, low-income customers are particularly
vulnerable to increases in their energy bills for
electricity, natural gas and propane both to heat and cool
their homes during extreme weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, the primary federal program assisting
low-income families with their energy costs is the low-income
home energy assistance program, which provides support both
for family utility bill payments and for increased energy
efficiency through home weatherization programs; and

WHEREAS, expenditure for the low-income home energy
assistance program is authorized for five billion one hundred
million dollars (\$5,100,000,000) in the federal budget, of
which two billion two hundred million dollars
(\$2,200,000,000) has been appropriated by congress for fiscal
year 2007; and

WHEREAS, the two billion two hundred million dollars
(\$2,200,000,000) appropriated by congress is not adequate to
support the winter heating needs of low-income families for

1 the winter of 2006-2007; and

2 WHEREAS, the authorized amount is not sufficient to
3 begin to meet the urgent public health needs in warm-weather
4 states such as New Mexico, which has experienced lethal
5 periods of extreme heat that has killed hundreds of
6 vulnerable members of New Mexico's population in the past
7 year; and

8 WHEREAS, there exists an extensive network of low-income
9 home energy assistance program providers that are public and
10 nonprofit agencies that can efficiently disburse the
11 increased funds resulting from an increased appropriation for
12 the public welfare;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO to call on congress to increase the
15 budget authorization for the low-income home energy
16 assistance program to seven billion dollars (\$7,000,000,000)
17 for fiscal year 2007 and appropriate the entire authorized
18 amount to the states; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
21 delegation.

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