

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mary Kay Papen

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 25, 2009 TO BE "COLONIAS DAY" AND
12 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND HIS CABINET TO ASSIST LOCAL EFFORTS
13 TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW MEXICO BY ADDING RURAL
14 COMMUNITIES AND COLONIAS TO THE STATE'S PRIORITY ACTION LIST OF
15 PROGRAMS AND WATER PROJECTS FOR LEGISLATIVE FUNDING.

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17 WHEREAS, the board of directors of the New Mexico
18 association of counties comprises the elected officials who are
19 responsible for the health, welfare and safety of the residents
20 of New Mexico's thirty-three counties, and these board members
21 are asked to represent and address the needs of these
22 residents; and

23 WHEREAS, the administration of Governor Richardson is to
24 be commended for targeting statewide improvements in education,
25 water issues, infrastructure and economic development, and a

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1 natural extension of those initiatives would be the addition of
2 infrastructure improvements for rural and colonias communities
3 to the statewide priority action list; and

4 WHEREAS, rural and colonias communities are sorely lacking
5 in infrastructure, accessibility, opportunities and sanitation
6 services, and, by working together, the state and individual
7 counties could lift up these communities and provide better
8 futures for the children in the communities who will in turn
9 raise their own families on family properties, thereby making
10 meaningful progress toward enhancing the most basic of human
11 needs in these challenged communities; and

12 WHEREAS, residents of rural and colonias communities
13 statewide face harsh challenges on a daily basis, but they are
14 proud people who are reluctant to ask for help; and

15 WHEREAS, individual counties continue to undertake
16 independent and ambitious infrastructure improvement plans
17 designed to enhance social and economic development
18 opportunities for all residents of New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, by initiating a statewide improvement program for
20 rural and colonias communities, the state could partner with
21 the thirty-three counties to empower these small communities
22 and dramatically improve the quality of life in them, while
23 simultaneously creating new entrepreneurial zones that will
24 complement existing projects in incorporated municipalities;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 25, 2009 be recognized as
2 "Colonias Day" in the legislature; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governor Richardson and his
4 cabinet be requested to work with the board of directors of the
5 New Mexico association of counties to assist local efforts to
6 improve the quality of life in the state and to add
7 improvements for rural communities and colonias to the state's
8 priority action list of programs for legislative funding; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the governor and to the board of directors of
11 the New Mexico association of counties.