

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 11

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 27, 2010 TO BE "COLONIAS DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE" AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND HIS CABINET TO ASSIST LOCAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW MEXICO BY ADDING RURAL COMMUNITIES AND COLONIAS TO THE STATE'S PRIORITY ACTION LIST OF PROGRAMS AND WATER PROJECTS FOR LEGISLATIVE FUNDING.

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

WHEREAS, the administration of Governor Richardson is to be commended for targeting statewide improvements in education,

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1 water issues, infrastructure and economic development, and a
2 natural extension of those initiatives would be the addition of
3 infrastructure improvements for rural and colonias communities
4 to the statewide priority action list; and

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

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

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

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

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