

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 21

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John Pinto

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO
12 REAUTHORIZE AND CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE NAVAJO ELECTRIFICATION
13 DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

14
15 WHEREAS, the Navajo electrification demonstration program
16 was created in 2000 by the United States congress in Public Law
17 106-511, Section 602, and was extended by Public Law 108-59 in
18 2003 to provide funding for the rural electrification of homes
19 on the Navajo Nation that are not currently being served; and

20 WHEREAS, under the original law, the Navajo
21 electrification demonstration program was to be funded with
22 fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) annually for five years;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, only fourteen million five hundred thousand
25 dollars (\$14,500,000) has been appropriated for the Navajo

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1 electrification demonstration program, including a fiscal year
2 2011 allocation of one million seven hundred fifty thousand
3 dollars (\$1,750,000) that was appropriated for use by the
4 Navajo tribal utility authority, from the original
5 authorization of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000);
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the Navajo electrification demonstration program
8 expands traditional sources of power and implements renewable
9 energy sources and other advanced electric power technologies;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, funding is administered by the federal department
12 of energy and disbursed as grants to the Navajo Nation to
13 provide electricity to approximately eighteen thousand Navajo
14 homes in northwestern New Mexico and northern Arizona that
15 currently lack this basic service; and

16 WHEREAS, the department of energy is charged with the duty
17 of providing technical support to the Navajo Nation in the
18 installation, use and maintenance of advanced power
19 technologies; and

20 WHEREAS, congress must act again to extend the life of the
21 Navajo electrification demonstration program first enacted by
22 Public Law 106-511 and continued in the provisions of Public
23 Law 108-59, or the Navajo electrification demonstration program
24 will not receive the necessary funding to continue the program
25 to make basic electricity available to homes on the Navajo

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1 Nation;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the federal government's
4 efforts to provide electricity to residents of the Navajo
5 Nation, many of whom live in northwestern New Mexico; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
7 delegation and the remaining members of congress support
8 legislation to reauthorize and extend the life of the Navajo
9 electrification demonstration program and continue to fund the
10 promised seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) by
11 providing twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for
12 electrical systems to members of the Navajo Nation; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
15 president of the United States senate, the majority and
16 minority leaders of the United States senate, the speaker of
17 the United States house of representatives and the majority and
18 minority leaders of the United States house of representatives.