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AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL LAW; ENACTING A NEW SECTION OF THE
CRIMINAL CODE TO MAKE IT A CRIME TO DISRUPT COMMUNICATIONS
AND UTILITIES SERVICES BY THEFT OR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE OR TO
CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD THROUGH THEFT OR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO
CUSTOMER- OR UTILITY-OWNED EQUIPMENT; PROVIDING PENALTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Criminal Code is
enacted to read:

"CREATION OF A SAFETY HAZARD OR DISRUPTION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES SERVICES BY THEFT OR INTENTIONAL
DAMAGE.--

A. Any person who by the theft of, or by
intentionally damaging, communications or public utility
equipment, whether customer- or utility-owned, creates a
public safety hazard or causes a disruption of communications
services or public utility services to ten or more
households, customers or subscribers or causes monetary
damage equal to or greater than one thousand dollars (\$1,000)
in value of equipment shall be guilty of a:

(1) misdemeanor for a first and second
offense, punishable pursuant to Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978; or

(2) fourth degree felony for third and
subsequent offenses, punishable pursuant to Section 31-18-15

1 NMSA 1978.

2 B. As used in this section, "equipment" means
3 utility system materials, including communications towers and
4 associated material, telephone lines, railroad and other
5 industrial safety communication devices or systems, electric
6 towers, electric transformers, metering equipment, electric
7 grounding wires and electric and natural gas transmission and
8 distribution facilities." _____

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