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HOUSE MEMORIAL 33

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Roger Montoya and Gail Armstrong

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE A
LEGISLATIVE INTERIM RURAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, vast disparities continue to exist between rural
and urban communities in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated, comprehensive and bipartisan
effort is needed to address these disparities and improve the
quality of life for all rural New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic provided
evidence that rural communities suffer disproportionately due
to a lack of basic services, such as running water, wastewater
treatment services, electricity, health care and broadband
internet; and

WHEREAS, input from rural frontiers, communities and
Native American communities is necessary to identify barriers

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1 to economic and educational opportunities in rural communities
2 and to reduce or eliminate those barriers; and

3 WHEREAS, infrastructure, economic development, education
4 and health care in rural communities are in need of further
5 state funding and investment; and

6 WHEREAS, the creation of a legislative interim committee
7 to study and provide policy recommendations on matters relating
8 to rural opportunities would support and improve the economy
9 and the lives of all residents of New Mexico;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
12 legislative council be requested to create a legislative
13 interim rural opportunity committee; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative interim rural
15 opportunity committee be composed of legislators from each
16 house so as to give equitable representation from rural areas
17 in each quadrant of the state and representation from the
18 membership of every other relevant interim committee; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be requested to
20 review issues affecting rural areas of the state; identify
21 barriers to economic and educational opportunities in rural
22 areas of the state and propose policies to reduce or eliminate
23 those barriers; assess all potential funding sources and
24 opportunities for investment in infrastructure, economic
25 development, education and health care in rural areas of the

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1 state; develop a long-term plan to address rural needs,
2 including the development of a rural relief legislative
3 proposal that leverages bonding capacity, capital outlay
4 funding and general fund appropriations, to provide for rural
5 economic development; review current tax policy, including
6 credits, rebates and deductions, to ensure equity between urban
7 and rural communities; coordinate with the office of the
8 governor to develop proposals; propose legislation to maximize
9 public and private investments in rural communities and to
10 foster the health and well-being of all residents of rural
11 areas of the state; and develop a legislative proposal to
12 ensure access for every New Mexican to running water,
13 wastewater treatment services, electricity and broadband
14 internet that provides benchmarks and tracks yearly progress;
15 and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be requested to
17 make a report of its findings and recommendations available to
18 the New Mexico legislative council on or before December 15
19 preceding each legislative session for the consideration of
20 each session of the legislature; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be staffed by
22 the legislative council service with assistance from the
23 legislative finance committee; and

24 BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the speaker of the house of representatives, the

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1 president pro tempore of the senate and the directors of the
2 legislative council service and the legislative finance
3 committee.

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