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HOUSE MEMORIAL 59

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

James Roger Madalena

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF TRIBAL PUBLIC
LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

WHEREAS, tribal public libraries were created and
organized in the 1970s to meet the growing educational needs of
tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, tribal public libraries are unique community
centers that connect students, scholars and community members
to the world of information by providing and teaching access to
resources that are relevant to tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, tribal public libraries serve all ages in their
respective communities and are located in the epicenter of
tribal communities, serving not only as informational resource
centers but also as cultural information centers that play a
vital role in language and cultural preservation; and

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1 WHEREAS, today, tribal public libraries exist in older
2 buildings that were not designed for library use, nor do they
3 have the capacity to deliver up-to-date technologies and
4 services such as reliable high-speed connectivity for ease of
5 use and security; and

6 WHEREAS, tribal public libraries positively impact the
7 quality of life of tribal members by providing free services
8 such as distance education, general equivalency diploma
9 classes, workshops, training, after-school activities and
10 library programs to tribal communities that are located in
11 rural, impoverished areas of New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, tribal public libraries must compete for tribal
13 revenues often earmarked for infrastructure such as roads,
14 sewer and water lines, irrigation systems, emergency response
15 systems, adequate medical facilities and communications systems
16 that are lacking in tribal communities; and

17 WHEREAS, tribal public libraries are filled to capacity
18 but have limited staff to serve tribal communities with basic
19 services, including access to evening and weekend hours as
20 demanded by patrons; and

21 WHEREAS, tribal public libraries lack the space to create
22 computer laboratories, greatly limiting the provision of
23 information literacy and technology training that would enhance
24 library services;

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

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the library
2 division of the cultural affairs department and the Indian
3 affairs department be requested to undertake a joint
4 comprehensive assessment of tribal libraries throughout the
5 state to determine financial resources and needs for the
6 operation of those libraries; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the library division of the
8 cultural affairs department and the Indian affairs department
9 be requested to present their findings and recommendations
10 regarding the operational financial needs of tribal libraries
11 to the appropriate interim legislative committees no later than
12 October 1, 2008; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs and the
15 secretary of Indian affairs.

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