

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 25, 2009 TO BE "COLONIAS DAY" AND
3 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND HIS CABINET TO ASSIST LOCAL
4 EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW MEXICO BY
5 ADDING RURAL COMMUNITIES AND COLONIAS TO THE STATE'S PRIORITY
6 ACTION LIST OF PROGRAMS AND WATER PROJECTS FOR LEGISLATIVE
7 FUNDING.

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

15 WHEREAS, the administration of Governor Richardson is to
16 be commended for targeting statewide improvements in
17 education, water issues, infrastructure and economic
18 development, and a natural extension of those initiatives
19 would be the addition of infrastructure improvements for
20 rural and colonias communities to the statewide priority
21 action list; and

22 WHEREAS, rural and colonias communities are sorely
23 lacking in infrastructure, accessibility, opportunities and
24 sanitation services, and, by working together, the state and
25 individual counties could lift up these communities and

1 provide better futures for the children in the communities
2 who will in turn raise their own families on family
3 properties, thereby making meaningful progress toward
4 enhancing the most basic of human needs in these challenged
5 communities; and

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

9 WHEREAS, individual counties continue to undertake
10 independent and ambitious infrastructure improvement plans
11 designed to enhance social and economic development
12 opportunities for all residents of New Mexico; and

13 WHEREAS, by initiating a statewide improvement program
14 for rural and colonias communities, the state could partner
15 with the thirty-three counties to empower these small
16 communities and dramatically improve the quality of life in
17 them, while simultaneously creating new entrepreneurial zones
18 that will complement existing projects in incorporated
19 municipalities;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 25, 2009 be recognized as
22 "Colonias Day" in the legislature; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governor Richardson and his
24 cabinet be requested to work with the board of directors of
25 the New Mexico association of counties to assist local

1 efforts to improve the quality of life in the state and to
2 add improvements for rural communities and colonias to the
3 state's priority action list of programs for legislative
4 funding; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the governor and to the board of directors of
7 the New Mexico association of counties. _____

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