

1 A MEMORIAL

2 URGING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY IN NORTHWESTERN
3 NEW MEXICO WHERE SNOWSTORMS THREATEN SURVIVAL.

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5 WHEREAS, northwestern New Mexico has been devastated by
6 at least three snowstorms, one after another, in recent
7 weeks; and

8 WHEREAS, in some places on the Navajo Nation, snow is at
9 a depth of four feet; and

10 WHEREAS, such deep snow, especially when layered upon
11 sheets of ice, is treacherous not only because it is
12 difficult to walk through but also because it can cause
13 disorientation; and

14 WHEREAS, such deep snow forces isolation on people who
15 live in remote corners of the Navajo Nation as well as those
16 who may live closer to roads; and

17 WHEREAS, residents isolated by the snow are likely to
18 have inadequate food and water supplies; and

19 WHEREAS, these isolated New Mexicans may be unable to
20 survive another storm or weather the long period when roads
21 remain impassable as the snow melts; and

22 WHEREAS, even the livestock of people isolated by the
23 storms may be unable to find food and water under snow so
24 deep it is up to their bellies;

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

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be urged to declare an
2 emergency immediately for areas in northwestern New Mexico
3 where roads are impassable, animals cannot reach food and
4 water and where residents are unable to get to sources of
5 food, water and medical care; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
7 announce his funding decision as soon as possible so that
8 persons snowed under may hear whether they will have to dig
9 out from the snow without state government help; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of homeland
12 security and emergency management. _____

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