

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO
3 REAUTHORIZE AND CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE NAVAJO
4 ELECTRIFICATION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.
5

6 WHEREAS, the Navajo electrification demonstration
7 program was created in 2000 by the United States congress in
8 Public Law 106-511, Section 602, and was extended by Public
9 Law 108-59 in 2003 to provide funding for the rural
10 electrification of homes on the Navajo Nation that are not
11 currently being served; and

12 WHEREAS, under the original law, the Navajo
13 electrification demonstration program was to be funded with
14 fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) annually for five years;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, only fourteen million five hundred thousand
17 dollars (\$14,500,000) has been appropriated for the Navajo
18 electrification demonstration program, including a fiscal year
19 2011 allocation of one million seven hundred fifty thousand
20 dollars (\$1,750,000) that was appropriated for use by the
21 Navajo tribal utility authority, from the original
22 authorization of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000);
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the Navajo electrification demonstration
25 program expands traditional sources of power and implements

1 renewable energy sources and other advanced electric power
2 technologies; and

3 WHEREAS, funding is administered by the federal
4 department of energy and disbursed as grants to the Navajo
5 Nation to provide electricity to approximately eighteen
6 thousand Navajo homes in northwestern New Mexico and northern
7 Arizona that currently lack this basic service; and

8 WHEREAS, the department of energy is charged with the
9 duty of providing technical support to the Navajo Nation in
10 the installation, use and maintenance of advanced power
11 technologies; and

12 WHEREAS, congress must act again to extend the life of
13 the Navajo electrification demonstration program first
14 enacted by Public Law 106-511 and continued in the provisions
15 of Public Law 108-59, or the Navajo electrification
16 demonstration program will not receive the necessary funding
17 to continue the program to make basic electricity available
18 to homes on the Navajo Nation;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the federal government's
21 efforts to provide electricity to residents of the Navajo
22 Nation, many of whom live in northwestern New Mexico; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
24 delegation and the remaining members of congress support
25 legislation to reauthorize and extend the life of the Navajo

1 electrification demonstration program and continue to fund
2 the promised seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) by
3 providing twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for
4 electrical systems to members of the Navajo Nation; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
7 president of the United States senate, the majority and
8 minority leaders of the United States senate, the speaker of
9 the United States house of representatives and the majority
10 and minority leaders of the United States house of
11 representatives. _____

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