

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 39

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, only fourteen million five hundred thousand  
dollars (\$14,500,000) has been appropriated for the Navajo

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1 electrification demonstration program, including a fiscal year  
2 2011 allocation of one million seven hundred fifty thousand  
3 dollars (\$1,750,000) that was appropriated for use by the  
4 Navajo tribal utility authority, from the original  
5 authorization of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000);  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the Navajo electrification demonstration program  
8 expands traditional sources of power and implements renewable  
9 energy sources and other advanced electric power technologies;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, funding is administered by the federal department  
12 of energy and disbursed as grants to the Navajo Nation to  
13 provide electricity to approximately eighteen thousand Navajo  
14 homes in northwestern New Mexico and northern Arizona that  
15 currently lack this basic service; and

16 WHEREAS, the department of energy is charged with the duty  
17 of providing technical support to the Navajo Nation in the  
18 installation, use and maintenance of advanced power  
19 technologies; and

20 WHEREAS, congress must act again to extend the life of the  
21 Navajo electrification demonstration program first enacted by  
22 Public Law 106-511 and continued in the provisions of Public  
23 Law 108-59, or the Navajo electrification demonstration program  
24 will not receive the necessary funding to continue the program  
25 to make basic electricity available to homes on the Navajo

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1 Nation;

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

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional  
7 delegation and the remaining members of congress support  
8 legislation to reauthorize and extend the life of the Navajo  
9 electrification demonstration program and continue to fund the  
10 promised seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) by  
11 providing twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for  
12 electrical systems to members of the Navajo Nation; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the  
15 president of the United States senate, the majority and  
16 minority leaders of the United States senate, the speaker of  
17 the United States house of representatives and the majority and  
18 minority leaders of the United States house of representatives.