

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mary Kay Papen

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 PROCLAIMING JANUARY 18, 2012 TO BE "COLONIAS DAY AT THE  
12 LEGISLATURE" AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND HER CABINET TO  
13 ASSIST LOCAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW  
14 MEXICO BY ADDING RURAL COMMUNITIES AND COLONIAS TO THE STATE'S  
15 PRIORITY ACTION LIST OF PROGRAMS AND WATER PROJECTS FOR  
16 LEGISLATIVE FUNDING.

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18 WHEREAS, the members of the board of directors of the New  
19 Mexico association of counties, as elected officials, are  
20 responsible for the health, welfare and safety of the residents  
21 of New Mexico's thirty-three counties and are asked to  
22 represent and address the needs of these residents; and

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

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

6 WHEREAS, residents of rural and colonias communities  
7 statewide face harsh challenges on a daily basis, but they are  
8 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 for  
14 rural and colonias communities, the state could partner with  
15 the thirty-three counties to empower these small communities  
16 and dramatically improve the quality of life in them, while  
17 simultaneously creating new entrepreneurial zones that will  
18 complement existing projects in incorporated municipalities;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 18, 2012 be recognized as  
21 "Colonias Day at the Legislature"; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governor Martinez and her  
23 cabinet be requested to work with the board of directors of the  
24 New Mexico association of counties to assist local efforts to  
25 improve the quality of life in the state and to add

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1 improvements for rural communities and colonias to the state's  
2 priority action list of programs for legislative funding; and

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

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