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HOUSE MEMORIAL 23

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

Rod Montoya and D. Wonda Johnson and Anthony Allison
and Georgene Louis

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION TO COLLABORATE WITH NEW MEXICO INDIAN NATIONS,
TRIBES AND PUEBLOS TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND
REDUCE POVERTY AMONG NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATIONS.

WHEREAS, in the United States, there are three types of
reserved federal lands: military, public and Indian; and

WHEREAS, approximately fifty-six million two hundred
thousand acres are held in trust by the federal government for
various Indian nations, tribes, pueblos and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the federal government should support efforts of
the Indian nations, tribes and pueblos to expand utility and
broadband infrastructure, encourage economic development,
increase entrepreneurship and reduce barriers toward those
efforts; and

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1 WHEREAS, on the Navajo Nation, thirty-two percent of homes
2 do not have electricity, thirty-one percent do not have indoor
3 plumbing, thirty-eight percent do not have running water and
4 sixty percent do not have telephone service or internet
5 connectivity; and

6 WHEREAS, according to the Navajo tribal utility authority,
7 at the current electricity hookup rate, it will take thirty-
8 five years and hundreds of millions of dollars to connect
9 electricity service to the entire Navajo Nation; and

10 WHEREAS, the poverty rate on the Navajo Nation is about
11 forty-three percent, compared to the overall United States
12 poverty rate of thirteen percent; and

13 WHEREAS, the median income on the Navajo Nation is
14 slightly more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), compared
15 to nearly forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000) nationally; and

16 WHEREAS, fifty-six percent of the Navajo Nation population
17 twenty-five years of age or older has a high school diploma,
18 while seven percent has a college degree;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the federal
21 government and the New Mexico congressional delegation be urged
22 to collaborate with Indian nations, tribes and pueblos to
23 reduce poverty among Native American populations in New Mexico;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional

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1 delegation be urged to introduce legislation to assist the
2 bureau of Indian affairs with expanding infrastructure
3 accessibility, reducing poverty rates, increasing economic
4 opportunity and improving educational access for Indian
5 nations, tribes and pueblos in New Mexico; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
8 members of the United States congress, the United States
9 secretary of the interior, the director of the bureau of Indian
10 affairs, the president and council members of the Navajo Nation
11 council and New Mexico's twenty-three Indian nations, tribes
12 and pueblos.

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