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SENATE MEMORIAL 13

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. López

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TRACK
PRESIDENT BIDEN'S JUSTICE40 INITIATIVE TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE
DIRECTED TO POOR, DISENFRANCHISED AND LEGACY CONTAMINATED
COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, justice40 is a whole-of-government effort to
ensure that federal agencies work with states and local
communities to make good on President Biden's promise to
deliver at least forty percent of the overall benefits from the
relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, the initiative looks to direct investments in the
following areas to disadvantaged communities: climate change,
clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transportation, clean
water, affordable housing, workforce development and a
reduction of legacy pollution; and

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1 WHEREAS, a new climate and economic justice screening tool
2 is being developed by the white house council on environmental
3 quality in partnership with the United States digital series to
4 assist federal agencies in identifying disadvantaged
5 communities to target investments; and

6 WHEREAS, the white house environmental justice advisory
7 council recommends that federal agencies identify disadvantaged
8 communities using factors such as: household income,
9 households living near superfund, waste, landfills and toxic
10 facilities, households with low education attainment and low
11 high school graduation rates, geographic areas with high
12 maternal and infant mortality rates, geographic areas that were
13 formerly redlined, geographic areas with high asthma rates and
14 deaths and geographic areas with poorly maintained stock of
15 housing and food deserts; and

16 WHEREAS, an environmental justice scorecard is being
17 established to track how federal agencies are performing on
18 meeting the goals of the justice40 initiative; and

19 WHEREAS, President Biden issued an executive order that
20 established the justice40 initiative in January 2021; and

21 WHEREAS, implementing justice40 involves restructuring how
22 the federal government operates to ensure that federal funding
23 equitably benefits communities, prioritizing disadvantaged
24 communities for investments though hundreds of existing and new
25 federal programs; and

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