A MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE A
LEGISLATIVE INTERIM RURAL OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, vast disparities continue to exist between
rural and urban communities in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated, comprehensive and bipartisan
effort is needed to address these disparities and improve the
quality of life for all rural New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic provided
evidence that rural communities suffer disproportionately due
to a lack of basic services, such as running water,
wastewater treatment services, electricity, health care and
broadband internet; and

WHEREAS, input from rural frontiers, communities and
Native American communities is necessary to identify barriers
to economic and educational opportunities in rural
communities and to reduce or eliminate those barriers; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure, economic development, education
and health care in rural communities are in need of further
state funding and investment; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a legislative interim committee
to study and provide policy recommendations on matters
relating to rural opportunities would support and improve the
economy and the lives of all residents of New Mexico;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New
Mexico legislative council be requested to create a
legislative interim rural opportunity committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative interim
rural opportunity committee be composed of legislators from
each house so as to give equitable representation from rural
areas in each quadrant of the state and representation from
the membership of every other relevant interim committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be requested
to review issues affecting rural areas of the state; identify
barriers to economic and educational opportunities in rural
areas of the state and propose policies to reduce or
eliminate those barriers; assess all potential funding
sources and opportunities for investment in infrastructure,
economic development, education and health care in rural
areas of the state; develop a long-term plan to address rural
needs, including the development of a rural relief
legislative proposal that leverages bonding capacity, capital
outlay funding and general fund appropriations, to provide
for rural economic development; review current tax policy,
including credits, rebates and deductions, to ensure equity
between urban and rural communities; coordinate with the
office of the governor to develop proposals; propose
legislation to maximize public and private investments in
rural communities and to foster the health and well-being of all residents of rural areas of the state; and develop a legislative proposal to ensure access for every New Mexican to running water, wastewater treatment services, electricity and broadband internet that provides benchmarks and tracks yearly progress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be requested to make a report of its findings and recommendations available to the New Mexico legislative council on or before December 15 preceding each legislative session for the consideration of each session of the legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be staffed by the legislative council service with assistance from the legislative finance committee; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate and the directors of the legislative council service and the legislative finance committee.