SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 58

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Tsosie

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, THE STATE LIBRARIAN AND THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE NAVAJO NATION AND OTHER TRIBES TO SEE WHAT THE STATE CAN DO TO HELP EXTEND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO INDIAN COUNTRY.

WHEREAS, the United States is fully engaged in the information era; and

WHEREAS, without access to information technology such as computers and related equipment, high-speed transmission infrastructure, electricity and other tools of the information age, people will not be able to reap the benefits of that technology; and

WHEREAS, many Indian tribes still lack simple technology that most people in the United States and other industrialized,

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1   first-world countries take for granted; and

2   WHEREAS, large areas of the Navajo Nation in New Mexico do

3   not have electricity extended to remote homes, and there is no

4   telephone service, running water or indoor plumbing in those

5   homes; and

6   WHEREAS, computers can bridge distance gaps and bring a

7   distant and foreign world into a person's home, wherever that

8   person may live, but only if there is the infrastructure to

9   facilitate access to the required technology; and

10   WHEREAS, commercial possibilities through the internet and

11   email are limited only by a person's imagination or their

12   access to technology; and

13   WHEREAS, communication for emergency management and

14   medical services can occur quickly if the infrastructure is in

15   place, allowing people located in remote locations to

16   communicate or receive information quickly over long distances;

17   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

18   STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the chief information officer, the

19   state librarian and the secretary of public safety work with

20   tribal governments and tribal agencies to assure that

21   information technology infrastructure is made available to

22   every person in every tribal community in New Mexico; and

23   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no person in the state of New

24   Mexico shall be left behind in the information age, and that no

25   part of the state shall remain incapable of accessing

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1   technology if the people located there want that access.

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