

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 4, 2005 TO BE "COLONIAS DAY" AND
3 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND HIS CABINET TO ASSIST LOCAL
4 EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW MEXICO BY
5 ADDING RURAL COMMUNITIES AND COLONIAS TO THE STATE'S PRIORITY
6 ACTION LIST OF PROGRAMS FOR LEGISLATIVE FUNDING.

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8 WHEREAS, the board of directors of the New Mexico
9 association of counties comprises the elected officials who
10 are responsible for the health, welfare and safety of the
11 residents of New Mexico's thirty-three counties, and these
12 board members are asked to represent and address the needs of
13 these residents; and

14 WHEREAS, the administration of Governor Richardson is to
15 be commended for targeting statewide improvements in
16 education, water issues, infrastructure and economic
17 development, and a natural extension of those initiatives
18 would be the addition of infrastructure improvements for
19 rural and colonias communities to the statewide priority
20 action list; and

21 WHEREAS, rural and colonias communities are sorely
22 lacking in infrastructure, accessibility, opportunities and
23 sanitation services, and by working together, the state and
24 individual counties could lift these communities up and
25 provide better futures for the children in the communities

1 who will in turn raise their own families on family
2 properties, thereby making meaningful progress toward
3 enhancing the most basic of human needs in these challenged
4 communities; and

5 WHEREAS, residents of rural and colonias communities
6 statewide face harsh challenges on a daily basis, but they
7 are proud people who are reluctant to ask for help; and

8 WHEREAS, individual counties continue to undertake
9 independent and ambitious infrastructure improvement plans
10 designed to enhance social and economic development
11 opportunities for all residents of New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, by initiating a statewide improvement program
13 for rural and colonias communities, the state could partner
14 with the thirty-three counties to empower these small
15 communities and dramatically improve the quality of life in
16 them, while simultaneously creating new entrepreneurial zones
17 that will complement existing projects in incorporated
18 municipalities;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 4, 2005 be recognized as
21 "Colonias Day" in the legislature; and

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

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

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

SJM 34
Page 3

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