

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 39

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mary Kay Papen

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING MARCH 5, 2007 TO BE "COLONIAS DAY" AND REQUESTING  
12 THE GOVERNOR AND HIS CABINET TO ASSIST LOCAL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE  
13 THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW MEXICO BY ADDING RURAL COMMUNITIES  
14 AND COLONIAS TO THE STATE'S PRIORITY ACTION LIST OF PROGRAMS  
15 AND WATER PROJECTS FOR LEGISLATIVE FUNDING.

16  
17 WHEREAS, the board of directors of the New Mexico  
18 association of counties comprises the elected officials who are  
19 responsible for the health, welfare and safety of the residents  
20 of New Mexico's thirty-three counties, and these board members  
21 are asked to represent and address the needs of these  
22 residents; and

23 WHEREAS, the administration of Governor Richardson is to  
24 be commended for targeting statewide improvements in education,  
25 water issues, infrastructure and economic development, and a

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1 natural extension of those initiatives would be the addition of  
2 infrastructure improvements for rural and colonias communities  
3 to the statewide priority action list; and

4 WHEREAS, rural and colonias communities are sorely lacking  
5 in infrastructure, accessibility, opportunities and sanitation  
6 services, and by working together, the state and individual  
7 counties could lift these communities up and provide better  
8 futures for the children in the communities who will in turn  
9 raise their own families on family properties, thereby making  
10 meaningful progress toward enhancing the most basic of human  
11 needs in these challenged communities; and

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

15 WHEREAS, individual counties continue to undertake  
16 independent and ambitious infrastructure improvement plans  
17 designed to enhance social and economic development  
18 opportunities for all residents of New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, by initiating a statewide improvement program for  
20 rural and colonias communities, the state could partner with  
21 the thirty-three counties to empower these small communities  
22 and dramatically improve the quality of life in them, while  
23 simultaneously creating new entrepreneurial zones that will  
24 complement existing projects in incorporated municipalities;

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

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 5, 2007 be recognized as  
2 "Colonias Day" in the legislature; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governor Richardson and his  
4 cabinet be requested to work with the board of directors of the  
5 New Mexico association of counties to assist local efforts to  
6 improve the quality of life in the state and to add  
7 improvements for rural communities and colonias to the state's  
8 priority action list of programs for legislative funding; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the governor and to the board of directors of  
11 the New Mexico association of counties.