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HOUSE MEMORIAL 96

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

James E. Smith

A MEMORIAL

URGING NEW MEXICO'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO ENSURE THAT THE STATE IS GRANTED NO LESS THAN ITS PRO-RATA SHARE OF ANY FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDING AND REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BROADBAND TASK FORCE TO STUDY ALL PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FROM NEW MEXICO FOR BROADBAND STIMULUS FUNDING.

WHEREAS, broadband telecommunications infrastructure is valuable to New Mexico's economic growth, academic achievements, public policy, health care and government services; and

WHEREAS, the United States congress will soon deliberate on legislation promoting improvements to the development of infrastructure throughout the country, a significant portion of which may be dedicated to the expansion of broadband infrastructure; and

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1 WHEREAS, many areas of New Mexico lack adequate broadband
2 networks and services, particularly in rural and tribal areas;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the lack of adequate broadband networks and
5 services is a disadvantage to a large number of New Mexico
6 communities and to Indian nations, tribes and pueblos compared
7 to other communities or other states with better access to
8 broadband services;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
11 congressional delegation be urged to do all that is possible to
12 ensure that any federal economic stimulus legislation include
13 no less than a pro-rata share of stimulus funding for New
14 Mexico for all infrastructures addressed in any forthcoming
15 legislation, particularly for broadband telecommunications
16 infrastructure development, where the need in rural and tribal
17 areas may be even higher than in most other states; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a broadband task force be
19 established, once federal economic stimulus legislation is
20 enacted, to review all broadband stimulus grant proposals for
21 New Mexico; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
23 representatives from the office of the governor, the public
24 regulation commission, Indian nations, tribes and pueblos, the
25 New Mexico municipal league, the New Mexico association of

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1 counties and other interested parties; provided that potential
2 or actual broadband stimulus applicants be excluded; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the broadband task force be
4 requested to endorse only those grants that directly contribute
5 to the development of broadband infrastructures in New Mexico
6 communities, rural areas and tribal lands that are deemed vital
7 to filling in the many gaps of broadband coverage in the state;
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
10 report to the appropriate interim legislative committee the
11 status of pending or awarded applications; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to members of the New Mexico congressional
14 delegation, the New Mexico legislative council, the governor,
15 the chair of the public regulation commission, the New Mexico
16 municipal league, the New Mexico association of counties and
17 the all Indian pueblo council.

