

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY  
3 MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT CONDUCT A REVIEW OF EMERGENCY  
4 PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS ON A COUNTY-BY-  
5 COUNTY BASIS; REQUESTING A REPORT.  
6

7 WHEREAS, on January 8, 2018, the national oceanic and  
8 atmospheric administration issued a report on the costs of  
9 weather and climate events in 2017 in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, there were sixteen extreme weather and climate  
11 events in the United States in 2017 that created damages in  
12 excess of one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) each; and

13 WHEREAS, the total national cost of weather and climate  
14 events for 2017 set a new record at approximately three  
15 hundred six billion dollars (\$306,000,000,000); and

16 WHEREAS, the damages from wildfires in the western  
17 United States in 2017 totaled approximately eighteen billion  
18 dollars (\$18,000,000,000), three times the previous record;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, final figures for 2017 for weather disaster  
21 damage costs for New Mexico and a breakdown on a county-by-  
22 county basis are not currently available to the public; and

23 WHEREAS, small rural and farming communities typically  
24 have limited internal resources to both prepare for and  
25 respond to weather disaster events, which increases their

1 reliance on statewide planning and assistance; and

2 WHEREAS, post-event review is critical to improving  
3 response efforts and communications systems for both state-  
4 to-local-agency and agency-to-general-public communications  
5 regarding natural disasters; and

6 WHEREAS, on January 23, 2018, the national integrated  
7 drought information system published drought monitor  
8 statistics and a map for New Mexico showing that nearly  
9 ninety-four percent of New Mexico is experiencing drought  
10 conditions and nearly sixty percent is categorized as  
11 experiencing "severe drought"; and

12 WHEREAS, while a drought is often an incrementally  
13 developing event, it can create the conditions for rapid  
14 catastrophic events;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the homeland  
17 security and emergency management department be requested to  
18 conduct a review of the damaging weather and climate events  
19 in 2017 in New Mexico, to include:

20 A. an analysis of the adequacy of emergency  
21 preparation, response and communications systems for these  
22 events on a county-by-county basis;

23 B. recommendations to improve emergency  
24 preparation, response and communications systems for each  
25 county, with cost estimates for each type of improvement; and

1 C. a summary of the available federal, state and  
2 nonprofit funding sources that are currently available for  
3 emergency system improvements, including trends in the  
4 availability of those funds; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting its review,  
6 the homeland security and emergency management department  
7 actively engage county and tribal governments and the acequia  
8 commissions and boards of the land grants-mercedes in each  
9 county; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the homeland security and  
11 emergency management department report its findings and  
12 recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative  
13 committee prior to that committee's final meeting in 2018;  
14 and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the secretary of homeland security and  
17 emergency management.

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