

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CONVENE A  
3 WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGES UNIQUE TO FRONTIER  
4 COMMUNITIES AND TO PROPOSE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO FACILITATE  
5 INVESTMENT IN THOSE COMMUNITIES.

6  
7 WHEREAS, frontier communities are the remote and  
8 geographically isolated settlements and villages that over  
9 centuries evolved into the land of enchantment and still  
10 today represent a majority of the state's landmass; and

11 WHEREAS, frontier communities face unique economic and  
12 social challenges, many of which need assistance from  
13 federal, state or local government to be overcome; and

14 WHEREAS, many frontier communities in New Mexico are  
15 unincorporated and face exceptional barriers to eligibility  
16 for public resources; and

17 WHEREAS, creative problem-solving supported by  
18 innovative legislative action is needed to preserve and  
19 protect the smallest communities in the state and to develop  
20 necessary infrastructure, services and amenities; and

21 WHEREAS, there is a need to identify best practices for  
22 ensuring that the frontier areas of New Mexico survive and  
23 thrive into the future;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council

1 be requested to coordinate with the southwest  
2 New Mexico-based national center for frontier communities to  
3 convene a working group to identify innovative ways to direct  
4 investment and reinvestment of state resources into frontier  
5 communities for the development of infrastructure, community  
6 and essential services; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that development experts and  
8 interested parties from throughout the state be invited to  
9 participate in the working group, including, for example,  
10 representatives of the New Mexico municipal league; the  
11 New Mexico association of counties; colonias; tribal  
12 governments and inter-tribal organizations; relevant state  
13 agencies; the governor's office; private foundations;  
14 community organizations; colleges and universities; the  
15 New Mexico association of regional councils; and members of  
16 the public; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group review  
18 existing law to determine if it facilitates equitable  
19 investment in frontier communities and, if it is determined  
20 that new legislation is needed, develop recommendations for  
21 legislative action; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group hold  
23 several public stakeholder meetings around the state to  
24 identify the essential needs of the smallest and most  
25 isolated frontier communities and to receive input on

1 legislative solutions that address frontier community needs;  
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group report its  
4 findings and legislative recommendations to the appropriate  
5 interim legislative committee by November 2019; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
8 council and the director of the national center for frontier  
9 communities.

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