

1 A MEMORIAL

2 URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE NEW MEXICO
3 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO COLLABORATE WITH NEW MEXICO
4 INDIAN NATIONS, TRIBES AND PUEBLOS TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN
5 INFRASTRUCTURE AND REDUCE POVERTY AMONG NATIVE AMERICAN
6 POPULATIONS.

7
8 WHEREAS, in the United States, there are three types of
9 reserved federal lands: military, public and Indian; and

10 WHEREAS, approximately fifty-six million two hundred
11 thousand acres are held in trust by the federal government
12 for various Indian nations, tribes, pueblos and individuals;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the federal government should support efforts
15 of the Indian nations, tribes and pueblos to expand utility
16 and broadband infrastructure, encourage economic development,
17 increase entrepreneurship and reduce barriers toward those
18 efforts; and

19 WHEREAS, on the Navajo Nation, thirty-two percent of
20 homes do not have electricity, thirty-one percent do not have
21 indoor plumbing, thirty-eight percent do not have running
22 water and sixty percent do not have telephone service or
23 internet connectivity; and

24 WHEREAS, according to the Navajo tribal utility
25 authority, at the current electricity hookup rate, it will

1 take thirty-five years and hundreds of millions of dollars to
2 connect electricity service to the entire Navajo Nation; and

3 WHEREAS, the poverty rate on the Navajo Nation is about
4 forty-three percent, compared to the overall United States
5 poverty rate of thirteen percent; and

6 WHEREAS, the median income on the Navajo Nation is
7 slightly more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000),
8 compared to nearly forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000)
9 nationally; and

10 WHEREAS, fifty-six percent of the Navajo Nation
11 population twenty-five years of age or older has a high
12 school diploma, while seven percent has a college degree;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the federal
15 government and the New Mexico congressional delegation be
16 urged to collaborate with Indian nations, tribes and pueblos
17 to reduce poverty among Native American populations in New
18 Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico congressional
20 delegation be urged to introduce legislation to assist the
21 bureau of Indian affairs with expanding infrastructure
22 accessibility, reducing poverty rates, increasing economic
23 opportunity and improving educational access for Indian
24 nations, tribes and pueblos in New Mexico; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the
2 members of the United States congress, the United States
3 secretary of the interior, the director of the bureau of
4 Indian affairs, the president and council members of the
5 Navajo Nation council and New Mexico's twenty-three Indian
6 nations, tribes and pueblos.

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