

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

3 INTRODUCED BY

6 DISCUSSION DRAFT

8 FOR THE ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A  
12 WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGES UNIQUE TO FRONTIER  
13 COMMUNITIES AND TO PROPOSE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO FACILITATE  
14 INVESTMENT IN THOSE COMMUNITIES.

16 WHEREAS, frontier communities are the remote and  
17 geographically isolated settlements and villages that over  
18 centuries evolved into the land of enchantment and still today  
19 represent a majority of the state's landmass; and

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

23 WHEREAS, many frontier communities in New Mexico are  
24 unincorporated and face exceptional barriers to eligibility for  
25 public resources; and

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1           WHEREAS, in frontier communities, a lack of capacity,  
2           which includes a lack of access to qualified grant writers and  
3           data, impedes local initiatives, and the provision of critical  
4           public services through volunteers is unsustainable; and

5           WHEREAS, the provision of public services and  
6           infrastructure, including acequias, mutual domestic water  
7           associations, firefighting, emergency medical services and  
8           rescue, is complex and requires skilled, long-term and  
9           financially compensated leaders, which many frontier  
10          communities cannot provide on their own; and

11          WHEREAS, creative problem-solving supported by innovative  
12          legislative action is needed to preserve and protect  
13          the smallest communities in the state and to develop necessary  
14          infrastructure, services and amenities; and

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

18          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
19          STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the economic development department,  
20          in coordination with the southwest New Mexico-based national  
21          center for frontier communities, be requested to convene a  
22          working group to identify innovative ways to direct investment  
23          and reinvestment of state resources into frontier communities  
24          for the development of infrastructure, community and essential  
25          services; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be composed  
2 of development experts and interested parties from throughout  
3 the state, including representatives of the New Mexico  
4 municipal league; the New Mexico association of counties;  
5 colonias; tribal governments and inter-tribal organizations;  
6 relevant state agencies; the legislature; the governor's  
7 office; private foundations; community organizations; colleges  
8 and universities; and members of the public; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group review  
10 existing law to determine if it facilitates equitable  
11 investment in frontier communities and, if it is determined  
12 that new legislation is needed, develop recommendations for  
13 legislative action; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group hold several  
15 public stakeholder meetings around the state to identify the  
16 essential needs of the smallest and most isolated frontier  
17 communities and to receive input on legislative solutions that  
18 address frontier community needs; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group report its  
20 findings and legislative recommendations to the appropriate  
21 interim legislative committee by November 2018; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the secretary of economic development and the  
24 director of the national center for frontier communities.