

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION, 2018

SENATE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

A JOINT MEMORIAL

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

WHEREAS, Frontier Communities are the remote and geographically isolated settlements and villages that over centuries evolved into the Land of Enchantment and still today represent a majority of the state's landmass; and

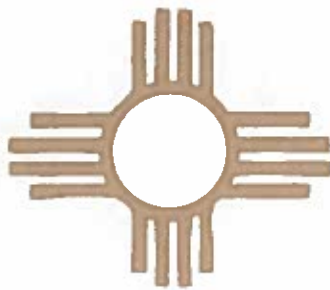
WHEREAS, Frontier Communities face unique economic and social challenges, many of which need assistance from federal, state or local government to be overcome; and

WHEREAS, many Frontier Communities in New Mexico are unincorporated and face exceptional barriers to eligibility for public resources; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico Legislative Council be requested to coordinate with the Southwest New Mexico-Based National Center for Frontier Communities to convene a working group to identify innovative ways to direct investment and reinvestment of state resources into Frontier Communities for the development of infrastructure, community and essential services; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that development experts and interested parties from throughout the state be invited to participate in the Working Group, including, for example, Representatives of the New Mexico Municipal League; the New Mexico Association of Counties; Colonias; Tribal Governments and Inter-Tribal Organizations; relevant State Agencies; the Governor's Office; Private Foundations; Community Organizations; Colleges and Universities; the New Mexico Association of Regional Councils; and Members of the Public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group review existing Law to determine if it facilitates equitable investment in Frontier Communities and, if it is determined that new legislation is needed, develop recommendations for Legislative action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group hold several public stakeholder meetings around the state to identify the essential needs of the smallest and most isolated Frontier Communities and to receive input on Legislative solutions that address Frontier Community needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group report its findings and Legislative recommendations to the appropriate Interim Legislative Committee by November 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Memorial be transmitted to the Co-Chairs of the New Mexico Legislative Council and the Director of the National Center for Frontier Communities.



**Signed and Sealed at The Capitol,
in the City of Santa Fe.**


John A. Sanchez, President
New Mexico State Senate


Brian Egolf, Speaker
House of Representatives


Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
New Mexico State Senate


Lisa M. Ortiz McCutcheon, Chief Clerk
House of Representatives