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AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL LAW; ENACTING A NEW SECTION OF THE
CRIMINAL CODE TO MAKE IT A CRIME TO DISRUPT COMMUNICATIONS
AND UTILITIES SERVICES BY THEFT OR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE OR TO
CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD THROUGH THEFT OR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO
CUSTOMER- OR UTILITY-OWNED EQUIPMENT; PROVIDING PENALTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Criminal Code is
enacted to read:

"CREATION OF A SAFETY HAZARD OR DISRUPTION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES SERVICES BY THEFT OR INTENTIONAL
DAMAGE.--

A. Any person who by the theft of, or by
intentionally damaging, communications or public utility
equipment, whether customer- or utility-owned, creates a
public safety hazard or causes a disruption of communications
services or public utility services to ten or more
households, customers or subscribers or causes monetary
damage equal to or greater than one thousand dollars (\$1,000)
in value of equipment shall be guilty of a:

(1) misdemeanor for a first and second
offense, punishable pursuant to Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978; or

(2) fourth degree felony for third and
subsequent offenses, punishable pursuant to Section 31-18-15
NMSA 1978.

B. As used in this section, "equipment" means
utility system materials, including communications towers and
associated material, telephone lines, railroad and other
industrial safety communication devices or systems, electric

1 towers, electric transformers, metering equipment, electric
2 grounding wires and electric and natural gas transmission and
3 distribution facilities." _____

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