SENATE MEMORIAL 41

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY IN NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO WHERE SNOWSTORMS THREATEN SURVIVAL.

WHEREAS, northwestern New Mexico has been devastated by at least three snowstorms, one after another, in recent weeks; and

WHEREAS, in some places on the Navajo Nation, snow is at a depth of four feet; and

WHEREAS, such deep snow, especially when layered upon sheets of ice, is treacherous not only because it is difficult to walk through but also because it can cause disorientation; and

WHEREAS, such deep snow forces isolation on people who live in remote corners of the Navajo Nation as well as those who may live closer to roads; and

WHEREAS, residents isolated by the snow are likely to have

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1   inadequate food and water supplies; and

2   WHEREAS, these isolated New Mexicans may be unable to

3   survive another storm or weather the long period when roads

4   remain impassable as the snow melts; and

5   WHEREAS, even the livestock of people isolated by the

6   storms may be unable to find food and water under snow so deep

7   it is up to their bellies;

8   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

9   OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be urged to declare an

10   emergency immediately for areas in northwestern New Mexico

11   where roads are impassable, animals cannot reach food and water

12   and where residents are unable to get to sources of food, water

13   and medical care; and

14   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to

15   announce his funding decision as soon as possible so that

16   persons snowed under may hear whether they will have to dig out

17   from the snow without state government help; and

18   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

19   transmitted to the governor and the secretary of homeland

20   security and emergency management.

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