

HOUSE MEMORIAL 106

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WORK WITH TRIBAL LEADERS AND THE TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD TO DEDICATE ONE YEAR OF TRIBAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT FUND MONEY TO ASSESS AND ADDRESS THE MOST CRITICAL NEEDS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF TRIBAL LIBRARY FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, tribal public libraries must compete for tribal revenues often earmarked for infrastructure such as roads, sewer and water lines, irrigation systems, emergency response systems, adequate medical facilities and communications systems, which are often lacking in tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, today, many tribal public libraries exist in older, unsafe and inadequate buildings that were not designed for library use, nor do they have the capacity to deliver up-to-date technologies and services such as reliable

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1 high-speed connectivity for ease of use and security; and

2 WHEREAS, tribal public libraries positively impact the  
3 quality of life of tribal members by providing free services  
4 such as online learning, financial literacy workshops, digital  
5 literacy training, homework help, early literacy and  
6 after-school activities and library programs to tribal  
7 communities, many of which are located in rural, impoverished  
8 areas of New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, tribal public libraries are unique community  
10 centers that connect students, scholars and community members  
11 to the world of information by providing access to resources  
12 that are relevant to tribal communities; and

13 WHEREAS, tribal public libraries serve people of all ages  
14 in their respective communities and are centrally located in  
15 tribal communities, serving not only as informational resource  
16 centers but also as cultural information centers that play a  
17 vital role in language and cultural preservation; and

18 WHEREAS, many tribal public libraries lack the space to  
19 create computer laboratories, greatly limiting the provision of  
20 information literacy, job readiness and technology training  
21 that would support economic development in the communities; and

22 WHEREAS, the Native American population in New Mexico has  
23 high unemployment and poverty rates with low educational  
24 attainment and poor availability of essential services, with  
25 access to technology and connectivity in tribal libraries being

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1 the essential source of educational and health resources and  
2 job and career information, since every aspect of access is  
3 technologically driven;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Indian  
6 affairs department be requested to work with tribal leaders and  
7 the tribal infrastructure board to dedicate one year of tribal  
8 infrastructure project fund money to assess and address the  
9 most critical needs for construction and renovation of tribal  
10 library facilities; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the secretary of cultural affairs, the secretary  
13 of Indian affairs, the governor and the appropriate interim  
14 legislative committees.