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**Indian Affairs Department Presents Budget to
Legislative Finance Committee**

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department presented its annual report to the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee on Monday, asking for \$3.7 million in support of vital programs and services to New Mexico’s tribes and pueblos.

“The Department of Indian Affairs is providing millions of dollars in support of New Mexico’s tribes through the pandemic,” said Lynn Trujillo, secretary of Indian Affairs. “We will continue to deliver on the state’s commitment to our tribal communities by staying focused on our core values: service, respect and community.”

Secretary Trujillo highlighted the ongoing work of the department and the state to support tribal communities through investments in critical infrastructure through capital outlay and the Tribal Infrastructure Fund and grant funding:

- Deployed \$100 million dollars in capital investments over the past two years, which is more than the past decade.
- Awarded \$34 million dollars in tribal infrastructure funds for water, public safety, education, and road improvements during this administration.
- Made public safety investments in seven tribal community with nearly \$7 million dollars from the discretionary road fund to protect public health and save lives.

The department’s vacancy rate has been reduced from 40% at the beginning of the administration to 17.6%. In addition, the department continues to build its capacity by adding 2 new full-time employees and leveraging outside partnerships.

“We have worked hard and successfully to strengthen the Department’s capacity to support New Mexico’s tribes and pueblos.,” said Secretary Trujillo. Vacancy at the department has been reduced from 40% at the beginning of the administration to 17.6% to date. In addition, the department continues to build its capacity by adding 2 new full-time employees and leveraging outside partnerships.

Since the beginning of the administration, the department has made significant and steady progress in reducing its general fund reversions. From FY19, when the department reverted 21.8% of its budget to FY20 when the department reverted 10.2% of its budget. The department has had zero audit findings.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the department has been involved in all aspects of COVID support leveraging partnerships to bring much need resources to tribal communities and pueblos. The agency has also developed and released key guidance documents as tribes initiated their containment strategies.

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