

**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

- WHEREAS**, the White Mountain Apache Indian Education Committee was established by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council to oversee education for Tribal Members on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS**, the Indian Education Committee has recommended to the Tribal Council that it oppose Options 1 and 2 as proposed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA] in its Educational Operations Streamlining Plan; and
- WHEREAS**, the BIA Central Office has repeatedly attempted to reorganize the BIA without serious consideration for tribal government participation and, in every case, the BIA's proposals further centralize administrative functions, power and control contrary to BIA representations; and
- WHEREAS**, the House Interior Appropriations Sub-Committee rejected a similar BIA proposal five years ago on the grounds that there had been no consultation with Indian tribes in creating the proposal; and
- WHEREAS**, because of this criticism there was initiated a Joint Tribal/BIA/DOI Advisory Task Force on Reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (hereinafter, Joint Tribal/BIA/ DOI Task Force); and
- WHEREAS**, the Joint Tribal/BIA/DOI Task Force conducted hearings over a four year period and together with the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs developed plans and principles for reorganization of the BIA which focus on decentralization of BIA resources and authority to the Agency level; and
- WHEREAS**, the Joint Tribal/BIA/DOI Task Force also endorsed full implementation of P.L. 95-561 which, since 1979, initiated a process that has streamlined and de-layered the BIA's Office of Indian Education Programs [OIEP] in a manner which already meets the goals and principles of the National Performance Review; and
- WHEREAS**, in 1979, when this law was passed, the OIEP had fifty-two (52) Agencies and Area Offices and today it has twenty-six (26), a 50% reduction, with twenty-three (23) of these closures/consolidations occurring between 1990 and 1992; and

- WHEREAS**, in respect to BIA Education, said law eliminated the Commissioner and Area Office from the chain of command and combined "line authority" and "program management" into one system; and
- WHEREAS**, said law also authorized the decentralization of Administrative Support Services for the BIA and OIEP by separating them from the Administrative Support Services then centralized in the BIA Deputy Commissioner's and Area Director's line authority; and
- WHEREAS**, since the final report of the Joint Tribal/BIA/DOI Advisory Task Force was issued, the BIA has introduced a new "top-down" streamlining plan which is nothing more than the Bureau's old plan for "consolidation of administrative resources" which centralizes bureaucratic power in Bureau offices distant from service delivery points; and
- WHEREAS**, the BIA's newest plan classifies Education Agency Operations as "Headquarters Operations" because the OIEP has long since been "delayed" and these Agency level offices report directly to the Central Office instead of an Area Office official; and
- WHEREAS**, as a result, the BIA's newest plan would eliminate 50% of BIA Education field program management staff and resources and would create a series of multi-state BIA school district offices, several of which only have one BIA funded school to oversee, while Fort Apache Agency Education oversees three (3) BIA funded schools; and
- WHEREAS**, these new BIA attempts to close the OIEP Agency Office at Fort Apache Agency will seriously harm the education of White Mountain Apache and other children at the local school level by reducing Agency-wide support for White Mountain Apache Tribal BIA and grant schools; and
- WHEREAS**, the majority of BIA programs should be totally exempted from funding cuts because they provide basic local government services which, for the rest of the United States population, are not federally funded and therefore not subject to federal streamlining; and
- WHEREAS**, the government services provided to tribes by BIA programs cannot be funded by local taxation of Indian reservation populations because of the overall poverty condition of the people, the trust status of the land and resources and consequential lack of a tax base to finance said programs.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby rejects options Number 1 and 2 proposed in the BIA Educational Operations Streamlining Plan as both options violate the spirit and purpose of the National Performance Review and its streamlining mandate as well as recommendations of the Joint Tribal/BIA/DOI Advisory Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that the White Mountain Apache Tribe opposes sacrificing Agency level Education Operations as part of any BIA streamlining plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council that it hereby gives notice that the White Mountain Apache Tribe wishes to "stand alone" by having its own Education Agency/OIEP to provide technical assistance and educational leadership to the White Mountain Apache Tribe for the three (3) BIA funded schools located within the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that technical assistance and educational leadership for the Agency, OIEP and its P.L. 100-297 Grant Schools, P.L. 93-683 Schools or Bureau operated schools continue without reduction of services or funding.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that it hereby authorizes the Tribal Chairman and the White Mountain Apache Indian Education Committee to convey the intent and purpose of this resolution to all appropriate levels of Federal Agencies and the United States Congress.

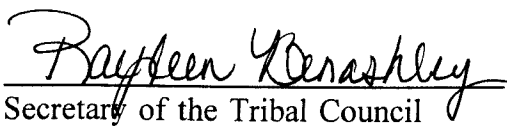
The foregoing resolution was on February 2, 1995 duly adopted by a vote of ten for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by the White Mountain Apache Tribe Constitution, including Article IV, Section 1 (a), (c), (i), (s), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

RECEIVED

FEB 10 1995

**FORT APACHE INDIAN AGENCY
WHITERIVER, ARIZONA**


Chairman of the Tribal Council

Acting 
Secretary of the Tribal Council