

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


- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe depends on continued levels of federal funding that are essential for the fulfillment of the federal governments trust responsibility and for the provision of essential services to insure the survival and welfare of its tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe has relied on the offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as the principal agent of the Secretary of the Interior in his role as Trust Agent responsible for the maintenance of the federal governments trust responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** contrary to the minimum BIA budget reductions recommended by the House Interior Appropriations bill, the Senate Subcommittee has recommended deep cuts in BIA natural resources and trust responsibility programs that will amount to a reduction of approximately 37% from FY95 levels; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed transfer of natural resource programs and trust responsibilities to the Office of the Special Trustee has been recommended without any tribal input, will be funded at a level that is significantly less than the current funding levels and ignores the trust responsibility of the federal government for human service programs serving Indian people; and
- WHEREAS,** the Office of the Special Trustee was established primarily to manage Indian trust funds and was not envisioned nor is it staffed to administer and operate the critically important natural resource programs or fulfill the sacred trust responsibilities of the federal government; and
- WHEREAS,** the Senate has introduced language to establish a form of "means testing" to offset funding for Indian tribes which receive gaming revenues without any consideration for socio-demographic differences or levels of unmet need; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council believes that the introduction of "means testing" is ill-conceived and premature given the level of unfunded needs existing on the Fort Apache Indian reservation with a tribal population of over 15,000 members and virtually all reservations across the country.

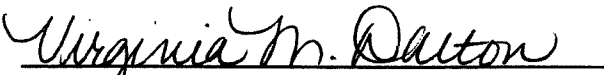
Resolution No. 08-95-249

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the BIA's FY95 funding level be restored, that the natural resource programs and trust responsibility functions remain within the BIA and that the so-called "means testing" and resultant funding cuts for gaming tribes be eliminated.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council that it respectfully urges Senator McCain to introduce floor amendments to the Appropriations Bill to effect the requested changes.

The foregoing resolution was on August 02, 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 Article IV, Section 1 (a), (i), (s), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

  
Chairman of the Tribal Council

  
Secretary of the Tribal Council