

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


**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS REGARDING
FY 1996 BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BUDGET**

- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the Indian Self-Determination Act (PL 93-638) to operate law enforcement, tribal courts, higher education scholarships, adult vocational training, social services, forestry, housing improvement, natural resource management, and other programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal policy of "Self-Determination, without Termination," first described by President Nixon in his Special Message to the Congress in 1970 should continue to be the federal government's policy regarding tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS,** the Senate Budget Committee included in its report to accompany the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget the following language:
- The Committee recognizes the unique trust relationship between the U.S. Government and the nation's Indian tribes and pueblos. That trust relationship is based upon a government-to-government principle embodied in treaties and subsequent actions by both the Executive and Legislative Branches of Government, and the courts. The Committee acknowledges this trust relationship, and assumes that programs serving Native Americans through the Bureau of Indian Affairs will be given priority consideration for ongoing federal support. (Senate Report 104-82).
- ; and
- WHEREAS,** the assumptions for BIA funding stated by the Senate Budget Committee were confirmed by the Conference Report on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget; and
- WHEREAS,** the Senate Budget Committee clearly stated the policy reasons for protecting BIA funding at the FY 1995 levels for the next seven years; and


- WHEREAS**, the Senate Budget Committee's statement builds upon a long history of modern Federal Indian policy beginning with Senator Goldwater's support for Indian programs, President Nixon's Special Message to the Congress on Indian Affairs in 1970, President Ford's signing into law in January 1975, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and the continued support for Tribal Self-Determination enunciated by Presidents Reagan and Bush; and
- WHEREAS**, the reductions in BIA funding proposed by the Senate indicate the reversal of the federal policy of "Self-Determination, without Termination,"; and
- WHEREAS**, the Senate proposal to cut funding for Tribal Priority Allocations ("TPA") by thirty-three percent (33%) would have devastating impacts on programs operated by the White Mountain Apache Tribe and would make it difficult for the White Mountain Apache Tribe to continue operating Self-Determination Act contracts; and
- WHEREAS**, the Senate proposal to cut TPA programs by 33% would have a devastating impact on the real estate and forestry programs operated by the BIA Fort Apache Agency; and
- WHEREAS**, the Senate proposal to cut funding for the BIA Central Office and Area Offices would have detrimental impacts on the ability of the BIA to meet its trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and could result in future liabilities for the federal government; and
- WHEREAS**, a review of the debate indicates that some Senators appear to be trying to punish tribal governments for the sporadic economic successes of a few tribes; and
- WHEREAS**, the Senate's budget proposals signal a return to the Federal Indian policies of the early 1950's, when the federal government, under the Eisenhower Administration, tried to abrogate its trust responsibilities to Indian tribes.
- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby calls upon the Arizona Congressional Delegation and the Conferees on the FY 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill, H.R. 1977, to support the funding levels for the BIA recommended by the House Report 104-173.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that the White Mountain Apache Tribe calls upon the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Subcommittee on Native American Affairs to reaffirm the federal policy of "Self-Determination, without Termination."

The foregoing resolution was on August 31, 1995 duly adopted by a vote of seven 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), (c), (f), (g), (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

