

8-21-00
J

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

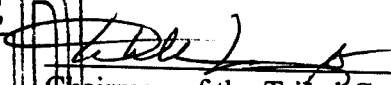
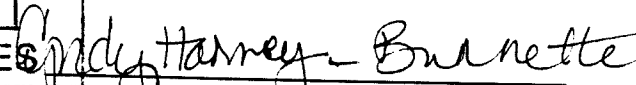
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache language is vital to the life, culture, identity and preservation of the White Mountain Apache people; and
- WHEREAS,** and Arizona Initiative entitled "*English Language Education for Children in Public School*" (Proposition 203) has been circulated by an English Only group called "English for the Children of Arizona" for signatures and is being placed on the Arizona ballot in November, 2000; and
- WHEREAS,** Ron Unz, a wealthy California computer entrepreneur, managed the "Unz Initiative" (Proposition 227), which was passed in California last summer, and is now supporting and promoting similar initiatives in Arizona and other states; and
- WHEREAS,** Proposition 203 is a stricter version of California's *Unz Initiative* and would place children with limited English in an intensive one-year English program known as "Sheltered English", thereby making it even more difficult for children to receive developmental English or bilingual instruction; and
- WHEREAS,** the intention of Proposition 203 is to place students in "structured/sheltered English immersion" programs regardless of whether parents want their children in such programs; and
- WHEREAS,** Proposition 203 severely limits parental options such as two-way bilingual education, mixes children of different language backgrounds and proficiency levels and ages together, and forbids teaching any subject in a language other than English; and
- WHEREAS,** eliminating all bilingual education would destroy such proven and tested education methods and would once again force White Mountain Apache children away from the culture and heritage so closely tied to their Apache language, just as our ancestors were forced to do so in the 1800's and early 1900's; and
- WHEREAS,** the ideological attacks on bilingual education, as proposed by Proposition 203, are essentially attacks on the Apache language and the freedom of choice of Apache children and parents; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council strongly opposes Proposition 203 and concurs that it is a serious threat to the sovereignty of the White Mountain Apache Tribe and the preservation of the culture, tradition and heritage of the White Mountain Apache Tribe; and

WHEREAS, it is of paramount concern to the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe to maintain the Apache language and provide the White Mountain Apache children with the opportunity to learn and utilize their native language.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it strongly opposes Proposition 203 "English Language Education for Children in Public Schools."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs the Indian Education Committee and the White Mountain Apache Tribal Education Department to inform and educate schools, parents and voters on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation of the contents and consequences of Proposition 203.

The foregoing resolution was on August 9, 2000 duly adopted by a vote of six 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), (g), (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).

R	E C E I V E D	
	AUG 21 2000	Chairman of the Tribal Council
TRIBAL SERVICES		
		Secretary of the Tribal Council