

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

- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe has on this day learned of a plan approved by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to divide the operations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs among two separate organizations within the Department of Interior; and
- WHEREAS,** the Council is advised that Secretary Norton's plan was instituted due to recent litigation against the Bureau concerning trust account management, and as a result all core trust responsibilities on behalf of Indian tribes, including vital natural resource management programs which are of great importance to the White Mountain Apache Tribe, will be transferred to a new agency, the Bureau of Indian Trust Assets Management; and
- WHEREAS,** a series of Executive Orders, most recently affirmed in Executive Order 13175, dated November 6, 2000, establish as binding policy for the government of the United States of America, that all federal agencies and departments must enact a policy to ensure government-to-government consultation between the U.S. government and the separate tribal governments on initiatives which will impact tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of the Interior utterly failed to consult with or advise Indian tribes of plans to strip the Bureau of Indian Affairs of its core trust responsibilities on behalf of tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** tribal governments, in attempting to assess the impact and scope of the proposal upon their own people and key programs, are left with cursory news articles as the sole source of information on this important development; and
- WHEREAS,** without required consultation with tribes, attempts to reform management of trust resources is unlikely to be effective or constitute an improvement over the Bureau of Indian Affairs' current administration of such functions; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposal, to the extent its design and structure can be ascertained, would fragment the current chain of command through its division of trust administration functions and would likely make such administration less, rather more than more, effective; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache Tribe is deeply concerned that any weakening of the Bureau of Indian Affairs will have major negative impacts on tribal sovereignty and tribal interests, as the Bureau will lose any ability it currently has to advocate on behalf of tribes, especially as tribes are facing major challenges to sovereignty in the courts and in the current administration, particularly in the areas of jurisdictional integrity, gaming,

and land into trust applications; and


WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribe views Secretary Norton's proposal as a first step to the abolishment of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the eventual termination of Indian tribes and their sovereign right over their own natural resources, as well as other trust assets.

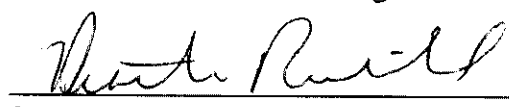
BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby opposes Secretary Norton's failure to consult with Indian tribes before publicizing plans to strip the Bureau of Indian Affairs of its core trust responsibilities and vest them in a new agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it opposes Secretary Norton's proposal and requests the support of Assistant Secretary Neal McCaleb, the Arizona Congressional delegation, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the House Interior Committee, and the House Resources Committee to (1) oppose and defeat this ill-conceived proposal; (2) maintain the Bureau of Indian Affairs' continuing administration of trust responsibilities; (3) maintain the strength in the Bureau at the agency level in respect to management of Indian trust resources; (4) reaffirm the government-to-government relationship between America's aboriginal peoples and the United States government.

The foregoing resolution was on November 15, 2001 duly adopted by a vote of NINE 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), (b), (c), (f), (h) (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).




ACTING Chairman of the Tribal Council


ACTING Secretary of the Tribal Council