



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

## ( Support of Native Farm Bill Policy Initiatives )

---

- WHEREAS,** the reserved and quantified water rights of the White Mountain Apache Tribe are priceless vested property rights of the White Mountain Apache Tribe essential to all life and the continuation of and future development and preservation of agriculture, healthy forests, livestock, wildlife, and pollinators; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council is advised that the Congress of the United States is preparing to deliberate the nature of agriculture policy for the nation and the world in the form of the 2018 Farm Bill which will authorize all Farm programs, rural development, and nutrition initiatives within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and
- WHEREAS,** the future economic development of the White Mountain Apache Tribe is tied to the use of its quantified water rights for agriculture production, livestock, and a healthy forest as the overwhelming majority of the land within the Tribe's Reservation is in a rural area; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Mountain Apache people continue to cultivate thousands of historically farmed acres and the Tribe has also been developing commercial irrigated farmland within its Reservation toward the goal of achieving a self-sustaining Reservation for its members that in the future will not be dependent upon federal food assistance for a substantial number of its families as is the situation today; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council is advised that an effort is underway by the Native Farm Bill Coalition led by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), the Indigenous Food and Ag Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law (IFAI), and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to preserve and expand upon the gains made in the previous 30 years of Farm Bill discussions in regards to Indian owned and operated agricultural programs in order to develop healthy, local, economically beneficial, and nutritious food needed in Indian Country communities and rural areas rather than to rely on federal nutrition programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the effort by the Native Farm Bill Coalition presents the best opportunity in decades for Indian Country to effectively advocate and lobby for enactment of truly relevant and targeted legislation to ensure that federal agriculture policy seeks to enhance the development of Indian and agricultural beyond the production of raw commodities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council supports the "Regaining Our Future" report and the policy initiatives generated therefrom.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby joins the Native Farm Bill Coalition and supports the "Regaining Our Future" report and the policy initiatives generated therefrom and requests that the Arizona Congressional delegation support the effective deliberation and expeditious passage of those priorities set out by the Native Farm Bill Coalition.


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it designates Cheryl Pailzote, Director of the WMAT Water Resources Program, to be the contact person for the White Mountain Apache Tribe with the Native Farm Bill Coalition and to report back to the Tribal Council as to the status of the efforts by the Coalition to obtain passage of the important Indian agriculture policy initiatives described by the Coalition in the Regaining Our Future report.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on JANUARY 17, 2018 duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT for, ZERO against, and ONE abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

	<u>1/22/18</u>	 Acting	<u>1/22/18</u>
Ronnie Lupe, Tribal Chairman	Date	Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary	Date