



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

(Requesting Federal Funding for WMATCO Sawmill Upgrades)

- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(i) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To manage all economic affairs and enterprises of the Tribe”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Constitution also provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Council shall exercise the power, “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...”; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe is the beneficial owner of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (“Reservation”), which includes more than 1,370,000 acres of forest and timberlands; and
- WHEREAS,** With the assistance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”), the Tribe manages its vast forestlands for multiple goals, that include the preservation of watersheds and wildlife habitat, the maintenance of areas for recreation activities and cultural practices, livestock grazing and the operation of a commercial timber enterprise; and
- WHEREAS,** These values are degraded and threatened by impacts the Tribe’s forestlands have sustained from overcrowded timber stands and drought conditions, causing reduced timber yields and undue risk of catastrophic wildfire; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe and the BIA allocate budget funding each year toward forest thinning, but a sustained thinning program must link to a viable economic use of the wood products; and
- WHEREAS,** The commercial logging activity to supply the Tribe’s WMATCO sawmill is beneficial for forest health through the related thinning treatment and related restoration required under the timber sales contracts; and
- WHEREAS,** The WMATCO sawmill is the largest remaining sawmill in the Pacific-Southwest, but it suffers from outdated and inefficient equipment and operates only with subsidies from the Tribal government; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe achieved some upgrades and modernization to the facility, and installed a professional management structure and governing board pursuant to a recent financing under the federal new market tax credit program, but additional capital investment is needed to make the mill viable; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribe and the surrounding region have suffered economic devastation from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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WHEREAS, Capital investment would enable the mill to achieve profitability and long-term stability, and thereby sustain jobs and spending in the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, The Tribe has been pushed into a severe financial shortfall, and is unable pay for the remaining improvements that are needed at the mill; and

WHEREAS, The Tribe recognizes that the circumstances present a challenge to the Tribe and the region that only the federal government can address.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby urgently requests funding support from the federal government in the amount of \$23,780,000 to complete renovation and modernization to the Tribe's sawmill enterprise, WMATCO, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby makes this request to President Donald Trump and members of the Arizona delegation for the reasons set forth above to aid this vital regional economic industry.

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 Chairwoman, or in her 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 **AUGUST 10, 2020** duly adopted by a vote of **NINE** for, **ZERO** against, and **ZERO** 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).



Gwendena Lee-Gatewood
Tribal Chairwoman

8/12/2020
Date



Doreen T. Numkena
Tribal Secretary

8-12-2020
Date