

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

- WHEREAS, the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council is the elected governing body of the White Mountain Apache Tribe on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS, this tribal council fully supports the continuing efforts of the Whiteriver Unified School District #20 to do the vital job of educating Apache children; and
- WHEREAS, land held in trust by the federal government for the White Mountain Apache tribe comprises 100% of the Whiteriver Unified School District, reducing the assessed valuation of the district to 1.93 million dollars and the bonding capacity to \$579,000 making it impossible to fund the education program or construction of new facilities through local property taxes; and
- WHEREAS, Impact Aid (P.L. 874 and P.L. 815) are federal funds intended to compensate for the lack of a local property tax base due to presence of trust lands and are considered by the council to be a trust responsibility of the federal government; and
- WHEREAS, Impact Aid comprises about one fourth of the operating budget of the Whiteriver Unified School District and are the only funding source available for the construction of needed new facilities; and
- WHEREAS, Whiteriver Unified School District incurs extra costs not provided for in the Arizona finance plan including the need to provide housing and higher beginning salaries for teachers, increased freight charges, higher maintenance costs, and higher transportation costs; and
- WHEREAS, the students attending Whiteriver Unified School District have special needs not adequately accounted for in the Arizona finance plan including bilingual education required by 90% of the students, special education required by 13% of the students and the need for other enrichment programs; and
- WHEREAS, supplemental programs such as Title IV, Title VII, Chapter I, and other programs designed to meet the special needs of Apache children in the Whiteriver Unified School District face drastic cuts and impact aid is the only alternative funding source for the district; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Arizona has consistently maintained that the education of Indian students is primarily a federal responsibility; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Arizona has received preliminary approval from the United States Department of Education to reduce its

financial contribution, to the Whiteriver Unified School District by the amount of impact aid the district receives, which means the district will lose \$433,530 in the 1982-83 school year, and will lose the most of the district's entitlement over the next three years amounting to about 1.3 million dollars per year.

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona School Finance Plan is contrary to the Congressional intent fo the equalization of Impact Aid funds, and constitutes a deliberate threat and challenge to the well-being and future of all Apache children in Whiteriver Unified School District;


BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby:

1. Requests that the Arizona Congressional Delegation actively support full funding of impact aid and seek to preserve the Congressional intent that these funds be fully available for the use of reservation school districts such as Whiteriver Unified.
2. Requests that the Governor of the State of Arizona and the Arizona Legislature communicate the importance of and the need for full funding of impact aid to the United States Congress and take steps to assure that the education of Apache children is adequately funded in light of the special costs and needs involved in educating our children.
3. Requests that the National Congress of American Indians, the Intertribal Council of Arizona, the National Tribal Chairman's Association, the National Indian Education Association, the National Indian Youth Council, the Arizona School Board Association, the Arizona School Administrators Association, and the Arizona Education Association, make continued funding of impact aid and exemption from state equalization a higher priority in efforts before the 98th Congress and cooperate with the White Mountain Apache Tribal Education Department in these efforts.
4. Directs the Tribal Education Department to expend staff time and necessary travel to enter into a cooperative effort with other Arizona tribes to hold the federal government to its trust responsibility to fund impact aid and to prevent the State of Arizona from "equalizing" impact aid.
5. Offers the facilities of the White Mountain Apache Tribe for a statewide meeting on Impact Aid to be arranged by the Tribal Education Department.
6. Directs the Tribal Attorney to become involved in any legal action which seems appropriate to protect the equal educational opportunity of the Apache children.

7. Requests that Apache Legal take whatever legal action is necessary to protect the educational opportunity of children in its eligible client community.

The foregoing resolution was on January 7, 1983 duly adopted by a vote of 10 for and 0 against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article V, Section 1(i) of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe June 27, 1958 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1958, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council

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FORT APACHE INDIAN
AGENCY
WHITERIVER, ARIZ