

PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TESTIMONY OF PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA

Governor Lawrence A. Montoya

August 3, 2011

Redistricting Committee

Pueblo of Acoma

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Lopez, Chairwoman Garcia and members of the Legislative Redistricting Committee.

I am Lawrence A. Montoya, the Governor of Santa Ana Pueblo and this is my second term as Governor, so I speak from many years of experience. The Pueblo of Santa Ana has worked well with the New Mexico State Legislature for many decades. We have long recognized the benefit of collaboration with the State of New Mexico on many issues. We understand the importance of having Native American legislators, and also of the important role that non-Native American legislators play in supporting our interests.

The Santa Ana Pueblo considers redistricting to be key to the Tribal State Collaboration Act. For the State-Tribal Leaders summit that was originally planned for last month, we listed redistricting as one of our four main issues.

In our submission to Governor Martinez at that time, we urged the State to be attentive to the voting rights of Native Americans. We believe that the State has an obligation to maximize the number of majority Native American districts in the House and Senate. But we also want the Legislature to respect the Tribe's positions on what those districts should be comprised of.

We should not have to go to court again, like we did in 2001 and in 1982, to have our Native American districts confirmed.

At present, Santa Ana is in Senate District 22 and House District 65, which were drawn as majority Native American Districts in 2001. The Tribes and Pueblos will now need to modify these districts to ensure that they remain majority Native American districts. In Senate District 22, we will need to remove some of the excess population that reduced the Native American population in this district from 67.9% in 2001 to 48.5% now. This should be easily achievable, but once again, Santa Ana urges the Legislature to follow the Pueblos and Tribes' lead in how it redraws this district.

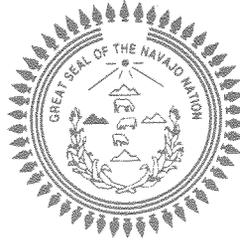
There are many Pueblos who are not in majority Native American

districts. These Pueblos will be presenting the Legislature with plans on how to create communities of interest among Pueblos even if they cannot constitute a majority district. We urge the Legislature to recognize the importance of placing Pueblos together in a district when they have so requested.

The jurisdictional and unique cultural and economic issues that Pueblos face are complex. It helps when the Representative or Senator has more than a single Pueblo in his district to understand how those issues play out for each Pueblo.

The Pueblo of Santa Ana is confident that the Legislature and Governor will respect the Voting Rights Act and the Pueblo's determination to protect their legal voting rights. Together we can hopefully draw a new map that the Tribes, the Legislature and the Governor can all agree works for the State.

I thank you for holding the hearing at Acoma Pueblo and look forward to working with each of you in the upcoming legislative session.



August 3, 2011

New Mexico Re-Districting Committee
New Mexico State Legislature
State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Letter of Appreciation and New Mexico Redistricting Reps for Navajo

Honorable Re-Districting Committee Members;

I want to express my appreciation to the 18-member Committee for taking on the once-a-decade task of ensuring equal representation for our New Mexican residents within the State Legislature and in Washington D.C. Just as this Committee has taken this arduous task of redistricting, our Navajo Nation Council has taken a similar path to address advocacy efforts within the three (3) states we occupy.

The Navajo Nation Naa'bik'iyati' Committee, which handles the intergovernmental relationships with non-Navajo, federal or state government entities, recently met to discuss the redistricting issues for Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. From those discussions came a decision to name a lead agency for redistricting efforts and to name several Navajo elected officials that will represent the voice of our Navajo Nation constituents.

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Office will be the technical group that will provide information regarding any redistricting questions the Committee may have and Honorable Leonard Tsosie and Honorable LoRenzo Bates are the appointees to represent New Mexico. Attorney Patty Williams is our lobbyist and will continue to provide assistance on NM issues, including redistricting.

We encourage the committee to take a close look at our proposals and consider our recommendations as they represent the best interests of our Navajo New Mexican residents.

Again, I want to express my appreciation for your efforts and wish all of you the best in your decisions that will impact the entire state of New Mexico. If you should have any questions, we encourage you to speak with our elected officials, lead agency and lobbyist.

Ahe'hee'

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Johnny Naize", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Johnny Naize, Speaker
22nd Navajo Nation Council

Attached: Resolution NABIAU-47-11
Appointment Memo, August 2, 2011