



October 31, 2015

Indian Affairs Committee
Co-Chairs, Clahchischilliage & Pinto
State Capital
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

RE: Indian Affairs Committee Hearing November 2, 2015 – House Bill 236 (2015): Increase Severance Tax Permanent Fund Inflows – Tribal Response

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

Thank you for the presentation on the projected impacts to the Tribal Infrastructure Fund over the next several years as a result of HB 236 and for the opportunity to comment on this very important matter. The Pueblo of Laguna does understand that the State has and will experience a reduction in revenues targeted for the Severance Tax Permanent Fund (STPF) and the need to address potentially diminishing of the STPF due to reduced revenues and maintained or increased annual distributions over time. The Pueblo is appreciative for the amendments to the original HB 236 that minimize the impacts to the reductions in the Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) over the next 10 years.

It is understood that the original legislation would have potentially adversely impacted the TIF by a reduction in funding in excess of 12-14 million dollars over the next 10 years. We understand that the amendments approved to the legislation have a potential to adversely impact the TIF by a reduction in funding of approximately 1.7 million over the next ten years. Although the preference of the Pueblo of Laguna is to not have any reduction in TIF funding and of course increases in TIF funding, it understands the states desire to protect the financial strength of the STPF. In addition, the Pueblo is appreciative that the adverse impact to the TIF funding was reduced from its original severe reduction projections.

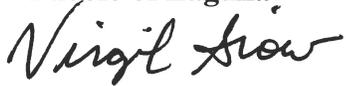
The Pueblo would like to reiterate the importance of the TIF funding for Pueblo projects. The Pueblo has used the TIF funding for various planning, design, and construction infrastructure projects in the past. More recently the Pueblo has implemented an approach that uses the TIF funding to finish or complete public road improvements, repairs and reconstruction of its public roadways and bring them into compliance with safety requirements and current standards for not only Laguna members traveling these roadways but also the general public that often visit the

Pueblo or pass through the Pueblo of Laguna. The last three years of TIF construction funding have been allocated to the reconstruction of three routes within the Pueblo of Laguna and have been added to Pueblo of Laguna funds and other funding sources to complete these projects. So as you can see, the use of the TIF funding by the Pueblo does have a positive impact to not only the Pueblo of Laguna membership but also the general public in total.

Again I want to thank you for the presentation and the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Pueblo of Laguna

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virgil Siow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Virgil Siow, Governor

xc: Pueblo of Laguna Council Members
Jim Hooper, Jr., Chief of Operations