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NM Redistricting Committee

July 31, 2011

I want to thank the Redistricting Committee for considering our testimony and the impact of the impending reapportionment as required by the new census. As Governor of Ohkay Owingeh, I want to convey the concerns and considerations of my Tribal Council and community.

For the past four decades, Ohkay Owingeh has been represented well in the NM House of Representatives. The present district represents the entirety of Ohkay Owingeh and neighboring communities where many of our Tribal members live. We have a close connection to these areas, which are parts of our former homeland, Spanish land grant, and now reservation.

It is Ohkay Owingeh's wishes to remain in State House District 41. We have a strong and cooperative relationship with our surrounding communities and feel it is in our best interest to remain with them so as to continue to collaborate on our common interests. Likewise, Ohkay Owingeh hopes to remain in its current State Senate District 5. Again, it is Ohkay Owingeh opinion that our current senate district provides our Pueblo a direct and satisfactory level of representation in Santa Fe.

In terms of the Congressional Redistricting, we are aware that the Ohkay Owingeh will remain in the 3rd Congressional District, and we are very much in support of that.

Ohkay Owingeh has a strong history of voting and works diligently to encourage its members to register and vote in all elections. We help to educate our members about the candidates that best represent our interests. We wish the Committee well in its deliberations.

Sincerely,

Ron Loyato
Governor
Ohkay Owingeh