

**MINUTES
of the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**September 9-10, 2021
Mimbres Valley Learning Center
2300 East Pine Street
Deming**

The fourth meeting of the Indian Affairs Committee was called to order by Senator Shannon D. Pinto, co-chair, on September 9, 2021 at 10:01 a.m. at the Mimbres Valley Learning Center in Deming.

Present

Rep. Georgene Louis, Co-Chair
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto, Co-Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Anthony Allison
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.
Rep. Martin R. Zamora

Absent

Rep. Brittney Barreras
Rep. Zachary J. Cook
Rep. Kelly K. Fajardo
Sen. Leo Jaramillo
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. Derrick J. Lente
Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle
Sen. Joshua A. Sanchez
Sen. William E. Sharer

Advisory Members

Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Sen. William P. Soules

Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Doreen Y. Gallegos
Rep. Harry Garcia
Sen. Stuart Ingle
Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Sen. Michael Padilla
Rep. Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

Guest Legislator

Rep. Candie G. Sweetser

Staff

Lenaya Montoya, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sara Wiedmaier, Research Assistant, LCS
Samantha DeLap, Intern, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Thursday, September 9

Welcome and Introductions (10:01 a.m.)

Senator Pinto invited members of the committee and audience to introduce themselves.

Welcome and Status Update from Luna County and the Fort Sill Apache Tribe (10:08 a.m.)

Chris Brice, county manager, Luna County, welcomed members of the committee to Luna County. Pamela Eaglesfield, vice chairwoman, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, welcomed members of the committee to Deming. James Dempsey, secretary-treasurer, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, discussed plans for construction and economic development projects on the Apache Homelands. Brady Jones, Mountain Management, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, expanded on other major projects that will require state funding. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/IAC%20090921%20Item%201%20Fort%20Sill%20Presentation.pdf>.

Wildlife Protection Management (11:21 a.m.)

Roch Hart, chief executive officer, Wildlife Protection Management, discussed the problems associated with inhumane horse roundup practices and current wildlife management systems and provided the committee with insights into innovations in the field of wildlife management. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/IAC%20090921%20Item%202%20WPM%20presentation.pdf>.

Native Women Lead (1:21 p.m.)

Alicia Ortega, co-founder and co-director, Native Women Lead, discussed the Native Women Lead organization and its goal to empower Native women as they become entrepreneurs and leaders in the community. She discussed the various programs that her organization has implemented and the positive impacts that these programs have had on the community. The presentation documents can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=IAC&Date=9/9/2021&ItemNumber=3>.

Public Comment (2:22 p.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Recess

The committee recessed at 2:42 p.m.

Friday, September 10**Reconvene**

Representative Louis reconvened the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Tribal Gross Receipts Tax Legislation (10:07 a.m.)

Ann Rodgers, owner-attorney, Chestnut Law Offices, P.A., informed the committee about the effects that gross receipts tax legislation has on tribal communities. She sought support for a bill that will reconfigure regulations on the method tribes use to set gross receipts tax rates. Dennis Wanya, tax and revenue director, Pueblo of Acoma, further explained the effects of a standardized, revamped taxation system. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/IAC%20090921%20Item%204%20Facts%20memo%20on%20Revising%20qualifying%20Tribal%20Tax%20for%20GRT%20collection.pdf>

Native Redistricting Coalition (11:06 a.m.)

Joseph Little, legal counsel, Native Redistricting Coalition, NAVA Education Project, reviewed the coalition's current work with tribal redistricting. He informed the committee about the All Pueblo Council of Governors' plans and proposed maps for redistricting on tribal lands.

Austin Weahkee, political director, NM Native Vote, and civic engagement director, NAVA Education Project, explained the principles of redistricting to ensure that there is equity in the tribal redistricting process. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/IAC%20090921%20Item%205%20APCG%20Resolution%202021-10%20Supporting%20Native%20American%20Redistricting%20Principles.pdf>

Public Comment (11:29 a.m.)

A list of individuals making public comment is available in the meeting file.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.