

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION ON A STATEWIDE  
PLANNING SUMMIT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

WHEREAS, Native Americans have been living in the region of New Mexico for over twenty thousand years; and

WHEREAS, over twenty-five thousand ancient Indian settlements have been found in the state of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, twenty-three Indian reservations are located within New Mexico's borders and constitute approximately ten percent of the land base; and

WHEREAS, communities such as the Pueblos of Taos and Acoma are among the oldest continually occupied communities in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Apache, Navajo and pueblo communities maintain their unique cultures and traditions to the benefit and promotion of New Mexico tourism, arts and crafts and general scientific knowledge; and

WHEREAS, there were over two hundred thousand Native Americans in New Mexico in 2010, constituting over ten percent of the population of the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, New Mexico ranked first of all states in terms of the percentage of Native American populations; and

WHEREAS, McKinley county ranks third nationwide in terms of its Native American population, with fifty-eight thousand

Native Americans constituting seventy-eight percent of its population; and San Juan county ranks seventh, with forty-six thousand Native Americans constituting eighty-eight percent of its population; and

WHEREAS, in cities with a population of more than one hundred thousand, Albuquerque ranks fourth in terms of its Native American population, with twenty-two thousand forty-seven Native Americans, constituting nearly five percent of its population; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have the highest percentage, nearly twenty-nine percent, of people who have no health insurance; and

WHEREAS, only fourteen percent of Native Americans over the age of twenty-five hold bachelors' degrees; and

WHEREAS, the tribal nations of New Mexico have sovereign jurisdiction within their reservations and have become increasingly self-determining in the administration and management of their people and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the mining of coal, oil and gas on Native American lands in New Mexico contributes substantially to New Mexico's economy; and

WHEREAS, the oldest and most senior water rights are held by Native American tribes in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the department of housing and urban development, the Indian health service in the department of

health and human services and the bureau of Indian affairs in the department of the interior contribute substantial resources to housing, roads, community infrastructure and schools for Native Americans in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Indian casinos employ thousands of people in New Mexico and contribute tens of millions of dollars to the revenues of the state; and

WHEREAS, Indian tribes are among the largest single employers in Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, Otero, Sandoval and San Juan counties; and

WHEREAS, the American planning association created an indigenous planning division, whose mission is to foster an interdisciplinary approach to planning that upholds Native American land tenure, values and cultural world views in community development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all federal, state, local and tribal planning agencies be encouraged to cooperate and support the initiatives of the American planning association's indigenous planning division; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education department, all New Mexico post-secondary institutions and the Indian affairs department support and promote careers and training in planning for the benefit of tribal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all planners who work for or with tribal communities be encouraged to convene a statewide summit on indigenous planning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be distributed to all Native American tribes in New Mexico, the Indian affairs department, the public education department and the higher education department.