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DOI/OS/AS-IA/OFA
Washington, DC

June 17, 2024

I, Debra Harrison, support
re-acknowledgment of Petition #404 -
Chihene Nde Nation of NM.

The tribe's rich history is not part of
a singular Chiricahua Apache history.
The term Chihene describes the tribe's
connection to the Greater Gila region.
This tribe comprised of Gila Apache
are the treaty signers' descendants,
making their identity unambiguous.
The tribe was historically known as
the "Rio Grande Mimbres and Rio Gila Apaches"
of 1853 and the "Mimbres Bands of Gila
Apache" of 1855.

Before US occupation, the tribe signed
multiple treaties with Spain and Mexico.
Given the tribe's unambiguity, it should
only be addressed on the minimum
3 criteria described in 25 CFR Part 83.
Its historical presence and contribution
to the region are undeniable and
deserve recognition. Tribal elders
have now directed the next generation
to petition the federal government
to preserve its language, identity,
and ongoing culture. Thank you.

With warm regards,

Debra Harrison

[REDACTED]
Hillshoro NM 88042
[REDACTED]