

[EXTERNAL] Support for Petition #404 - Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico

Donna Begay [REDACTED]

Mon 5/20/2024 6:43 PM

To: BIA OFA Info <ofa_info@BIA.GOV>

1 attachments (147 KB)

Letter Support Federal Recognition 5 20 2024 Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico.pdf;

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MAY 20 2024

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Washington, DC

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Please see attached letter of support for Petition #404 - Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico

Sincerely,

Dr. Donna Miranda-Begay
CEO CA Tribal GIS
Tubatulabal Cultural Practitioner and Researcher
760 299-4033 office ph.
[REDACTED] cell ph.
[REDACTED]

www.catribalgis.org

Board Member - www.CGIA.org

Utilizing GIS to assist with protection of cultural landscape and natural resources management. Assisting CA Native American Tribes with improved GIS knowledge build.

California Tribal Geographical Information Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 306, Weldon, CA 93283



May 20, 2024

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Attention: Office of Federal Acknowledgment
Mail Stop 4071 MIB
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

To: Office of Federal Recognition Representative

Subject: Support for Petition #404 - Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico

I, Dr. Donna Miranda-Begay, member of Tübatulabals of Kern Valley Tribe located in Weldon, California, support the re-acknowledgment of Petition #404—Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico. This 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 Mimbres and Rio Gila Apaches" of 1853 and the "Mimbres Bands of Gila Apache" of 1855. Before U.S. occupation, the tribe signed multiple treaties with Spain and Mexico. Given the tribe's unambiguity, it should only be assessed on the minimum three criteria described in 25 CFR Part 83. Its historical presence and contributions 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, ethnography, and ongoing culture.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Dr. Donna Miranda-Begay
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