



CHIHENE NDE NATION OF NEW MEXICO
P.O. BOX 17
DOÑA ANA, NM 88032

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

Subject: Thank you to those that submitted comments in support of our Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico Petition for Re-Acknowledgment to the Office of Federal Acknowledgment

On behalf of the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico, also known historically as the Mimbres Bands of Gila Apache, I extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support of our petition for federal re-acknowledgment. Your letter of support is not only a testament to your understanding of the importance of tribal sovereignty but also an invaluable affirmation of our people's enduring struggle to reclaim our rightful recognition as a distinct nation.

Your advocacy contributes to a long-standing effort to revitalize our culture, restore our governance, and secure a future for our people that honors the resilience of our ancestors. This acknowledgment will empower us to preserve our traditions, reclaim lands critical to our identity, and provide educational, economic, and social opportunities that uplift our community.

The Chihene Nde Nation's history reflects centuries of adaptation and perseverance. Our ancestors farmed, negotiated peace, and led with wisdom, even amidst tremendous challenges brought by colonization and dispossession. Federal recognition is a critical step toward restoring what was unjustly taken and ensuring the survival and flourishing of our nation in the modern era.

Through your support, we are inspired to continue this journey with greater resolve. As we strive to establish programs that preserve our language, protect our lands, and sustain our people's well-being, your encouragement serves as a beacon of hope and partnership.

Thank you for standing with us during this pivotal time in our history. Your commitment to justice and equity strengthens our resolve and reminds us that the future of the Chihene Nde Nation is a shared endeavor built on solidarity and respect.

With our deepest gratitude to:

Dr. Deni Seymour, Author, Archaeologist, and Historian

Dr. Tiffany Lee (Diné), Professor, University of New Mexico - Native American Studies (former Department Chair)

Xochitl L Santillán Reyna, Graduate Student, University of New Mexico

Lynda Sánchez, Author, Historian, and Educator

Brenda Wilkinson, Retired Archaeologist

Debra Harrison

Dr. Donna Miranda-Begay (Diné/Tubatulabal), CEO of California Tribal GIS CGIA

Franklin Tranquilino Telles

Harrison Cook

Jewel Biondo

Kathy Knapp, Entrepreneur and Business Owner

Lupita Edmiston

Dr. Neal Ackerly, Archaeologist

Stanley King, Entrepreneur and Business Owner

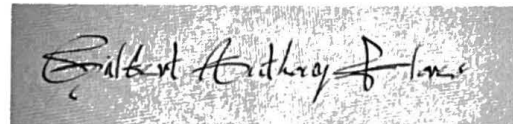
Steven Preciado

Others who submitted letters of support for our petition include Dr. Matthew Babcock (Professor and author, University of North Texas at Dallas), Dr. Jeffrey P. Shepherd (Professor, Author, and former History Department Chair), Dr. Michelle Kells (Professor, University of New Mexico), Dr. Megan Poole (Assistant Professor, University of Louisville), Dr. Lydia Wilkes (Assistant Professor, Auburn University), and Dr. Savannah Paige Murray (Assistant Professor, Appalachian State University).

With our utmost Respect,



Manuel Paul Sanchez, Chairman
Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico



Gilbert Anthony Flores, Vice Chair
Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico



Lauren Denson, Secretary
Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico



Paul Martinez, Treasurer
Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico