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Pueblo of Tesuque

Honorable Richard Mermejo  
Pueblo of Picuris

Honorable Ernesto C. Luhan  
Taos Pueblo



Gil Vigil  
Executive Director

Board of Governors

Honorable J. Bruce Tafoya  
Pueblo of Santa Clara  
Vice Chairman

Honorable George Rivera  
Pueblo of Pojoaque

Honorable Terry Aguilar  
Pueblo de San Ildefonso

Honorable Marcelino Aguino  
Ohkay Owingeh

RESOLUTIONS NO. 13.11.25

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOL HEALING COALITION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS THE EFFECTS OF, AND PROMISING HEALING PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS, THE FORCIBLE REMOVAL OF CHILDREN AND SUBSEQUENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT RESULTING FROM THE BOARDING SCHOOL POLICY ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED DURING THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES**

**WHEREAS:** the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc. ("ENIPC"), is comprised of the Northern New Mexico Pueblos of Taos, Picuris, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Nambe and Tesuque; and

**WHEREAS:** the ENIPC Board of Governors is comprised of appointed and elected Tribal Governors from the respective Eight Northern Pueblo Tribes; and

**WHEREAS:** ENIPC is established to provide community-based services in the areas of education, employment and training, behavioral health, domestic violence counseling, senior services, environmental support services, child care providing, commodity distribution, woman and infant services, and administrative support services; and

**WHEREAS:** the actions taken by the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council officially represent the intentions of each member Pueblo, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Pueblos' leadership; and

**WHEREAS:** the United States, at the urging of and in support of the Christian Churches of the time, adopted the Indian Civilization Act Fund of 1819 to provide financial support for church run schools to "civilize" Native American children through education; and

**WHEREAS:** in 1869 the United States, in concert with and at the urging of several denominations of the Christian Church, adopted the Indian Board School Policy (also known as the Peace Policy) which was a deliberate policy of the removal

and reprogramming of Native American children, the purpose of which was the systematic destruction of indigenous cultures and communities; and

**WHEREAS:** between 1869 and the 1960s as many as 100,000 Native American children were removed from their homes and families, often involuntarily, and placed in Boarding Schools operated by the federal government and the churches; and

**WHEREAS:** Native children that were voluntarily or forcibly removed from their homes, families and communities were taken to schools far away where they were punished for speaking their native language, banned from acting in any way that might be seen to represent traditional or cultural practices, stripped of traditional clothing, hair and all things and behaviors reflective of their native culture, and commonly abused and neglected by inadequate and hostile staff; and

**WHEREAS:** the prevailing attitudes of the time allowed neglect and abuse of children who were overseen but not parented, who were bullied and assaulted not only by the adults but also by older children under the modeling and instruction of the caretakers and staff, and who were neglected en masse. These children observed and suffered physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, punishment by physical restraints, beating and isolation in inhospitable surroundings, such as unlighted cellars, and unlighted and unventilated outbuildings designed as jails; and

**WHEREAS:** these children, their children and now their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, have become the legacy of the boarding schools and the federal policy that established and sustained those schools, where the trauma the children suffered has gone unrecognized and unresolved, and the trauma is passed onto each subsequent generation where this historical and inter-generational trauma continues to work in, undermine and devastate Native American individuals, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS:** neither the United States nor any national denomination of the Christian Churches in the United States has offered a meaningful apology or offered to provide any restitution for the generations of harm caused by the deliberate imposition of the policy of cultural genocide on the Native American children, families, communities, Pueblos, Tribes, or Alaskan Villages; and

**WHEREAS:** the facts and history about the pervasive harm caused and continuing to be caused by the trauma and continuing intergenerational trauma attributable to the Boarding School Policy are poorly understood by the American public, the Congress of the Executive Branch of the federal government; and

**WHEREAS:** in order to begin a healing process to address the harms suffered and enduring as a result of the boarding school policy, a comprehensive national study is needed of the history of the policy; such study should include complete documentation of the fate of each of the students and the events that took place at each of the

schools, gathering of testimony from those that suffered from abuse, neglect or other trauma, and recommendations to Congress based on the information gathered from individual victims, communities and experts concerning the nature of the harms and potential paradigms for healing and reconciliation; and

**WHEREAS:** similar events in the past have been successfully addressed through Congressional authorization of a Commission to study and report on the issue; and

**WHEREAS:** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

That the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council does hereby support the enactment by the United States Congress of a bill to create a Commission on American Indian Boarding School Policy, the majority of the members of which shall be members of Federally Recognized Tribes, to be charged with investigating and reporting back to Congress on the history of the boarding school policy, the impacts of that policy and communities, Tribal nations, and individuals, and suitable methods of support for healing and reconciliation with the communities and Tribal nations impacted by the policy; and

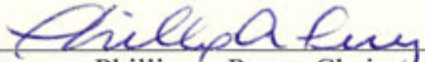
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

That this Resolution shall be the policy of the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council until otherwise amended or rescinded, or until the goal of this Resolution has been accomplished.

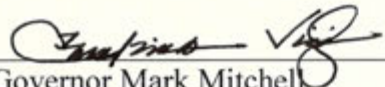
**CERTIFICATION**

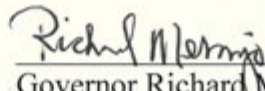
We hereby certify that Resolution No. 13.11.25 was considered and adopted at an Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council, Inc., Board of Governors Meeting held on November 19, 13 at which a quorum was present. This vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, 2 absent.

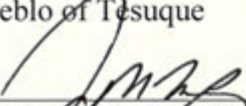
Signed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013

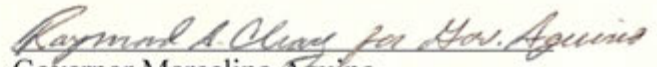
  
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Governor Phillip A. Perez, Chairman  
Pueblo of Nambe

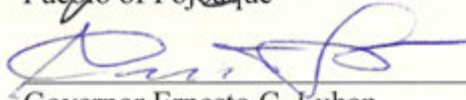
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Governor J. Bruce Tafoya, Vice-Chairman  
Pueblo of Santa Clara

*for*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor Mark Mitchell  
Pueblo of Tesuque


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor Richard Mermejo  
Pueblo of Picuris

*for*   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor George Rivera  
Pueblo of Pojoaque

  
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Governor Marcelino Aguino  
Ohkay Owingeh

  
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Governor Ernesto C. Luhan  
Pueblo of Taos

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Governor Terry Aguilar  
Pueblo de San Ildefonso

Attest:   
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Gil Vigil  
ENIPC, Inc. Executive Director