Testimony of
Mr. Mike Canfield
President and CEO
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
Indian Pueblos Marketing

Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs
Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Ruiz and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today in support of HR. 1880, the Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act.

My name is Mike Canfield: I am president and CEO of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) and Indian Pueblo's Marketing (IPMI). Both of these corporations are owned and operated by the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico and located on the old Albuquerque Indian School property in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The vision for our organizations located on this property include creating unique and successful businesses, providing professional and economic advancement opportunities for our workforce, nurturing self-sustainable developments while providing financial returns to our Pueblo communities and promoting Pueblo arts, culture and lifestyles.

In 1969 the United States began the long process of converting the 1884 Albuquerque Indian School Reserve which was the former site of a Federal Indian Boarding School. The first 11 acres conveyed were used to build the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center which was completed in 1976. The Cultural Center has a long history of successful self-sufficient operations. In 2013 we were recognized as "The Tribal Destination of the Year by the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association. We are also a major contributor to our state and local economy as we are one of the top 3 most visited attractions in New Mexico hosting approximately 470,000 visitors per year.

In 1993 the United States placed an additional 44 acres of the former Albuquerque Indian School Reserve in trust for the 19 Pueblos. Those 44 acres make up the majority of the former school property. The Pueblos successfully created land development protocols with the City of Albuquerque, and this portion of the former school property is now the home to two large office buildings occupied by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and a hotel owned by the Pueblos. The Pueblos are proceeding with additional office and retail development on the remaining property.

In 2008 Congress enacted Public Law 110-453 requiring the Secretary of the Interior to convey an additional 8.5 acres of the former Albuquerque

Indian School Reserve to the United States in trust for the 19 Pueblos. These parcels included the last remaining Indian School structure. Building 232, which formerly housed the BIA's Southern Pueblos Agency, was originally built in 1931 and designed by Architect Joseph Padilla, a tribal member from Isleta Pueblo. The building had been slated for demolition, but IPMI was able save it by financing a renovation project. The renovated building now houses the Native American Community Academy, a public school chartered under Albuquerque Public Schools that serves approximately 380 students.

HR 1880 directs the Secretary of the Interior to place 11.11 acres of land in trust for the 19 Pueblos, consolidating several small parcels contiguous with the 44 acre tract that has been held in trust for the 19 Pueblos since 1993 and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center property that has been held in trust for the Pueblos since 1978.

My written testimony includes a map and a detailed description of the tracts of land this bill seeks to convey. My written testimony also includes a letter of support from Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation is identical to the legislation that was introduced in the 113th Congress and has the bipartisan support of the entire New Mexico Congressional delegation.

HR 1880 completes the process of transferring the BIA's portion of the former Albuquerque Indian School Reserve to the 19 Pueblos. Most importantly, HR 1880 will allow the 19 Pueblos to continue the achievement of our vision for this property by providing economic development, educational and cultural opportunities for our Pueblos, the City of Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico.

I want to thank the Committee for inviting me to testify this afternoon and I am happy to answer any questions.

Albuquerque Indian School District Property

Land currently in trust or owned by the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico

Bill H.R. 1880 proposed land transfer

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Office of the Mayor/ Chief Administrative Officer

April 24, 2014

United States Senator Tom Udall
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Proposed Legislation to Convey Surplus Federal Land to the 19 Pueblos

Dear Senator Udall:

I write in support of legislation to transfer surplus land currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the 19 Pueblos and the property along 12th Street in Albuquerque, NM. Because this land, which amounts to 11.11 acres, is currently owned by the United States, there is no impact on local property taxes.

The land proposed to be conveyed was inadvertently left out of a previous land transfer made in 2008. By transferring these tracts of land, it will further unite the former Albuquerque Indian School (AIS) property that has recently been reformed into the AIS District, a unique governance structure that benefits all of the 19 Pueblos, who and manage the land through Indian Pueblos Marketing, Inc.

Consolidating these small parcels with the 44-acre tract that has been held in trust for the 19 Pueblos since 1993, and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center property that has been held in trust since 1978 , will complete the transfer of the former AIS property to the 19 Pueblos. The legislation will allow the 19 Pueblos to manage all of the former reserve for economic development, educational, and cultural purposes.

The land transfer will further strengthen the 19 Pueblos ability to help develop the 12th Street property into a prosperous economic development for both the city and the 19 Pueblos.

Further, the transfer of the land will allow for firmer protections and flexibility for the Native American Community Academy that recently relocated to the campus in the reserves last remaining building of the former AIS.

Please feel free to contact me directly or my staff person Elias Gallegos at (505) 768-3000 with any questions.

Best regards,

Richard J. Berry
Mayor
City of Albuquerque

cc: Michael Canfield, President/CEO, IPMI

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