



## RESOLUTION

### ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2023-10

#### OPPOSING H.R. 4374 “ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL ACT”

Acoma

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni

**WHEREAS**, the All Pueblo Council of Governors is comprised of the New Mexico Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia, and Zuni and one Pueblo in Texas, Ysleta del Sur, each having the sovereign authority to govern their own affairs;

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the All Pueblo Council of Governors is to advocate, foster, protect, and encourage the social, cultural, and traditional well-being of the Pueblo Nations;

**WHEREAS**, the 20 Pueblos possess governmental authority and sovereignty over their lands and over their protection of their languages, cultures, and traditions;

**WHEREAS**, the Pueblos possess their own cultural territory and sovereign rights to protect their cultural resources, including their traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, whether or not these cultural resources are located within each Pueblo’s current exterior boundaries;

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Chaco Region is a sacred place of profound cultural importance as one of the primary ancestral homelands of the Pueblos, and each of the 20 Pueblos of the All Pueblo Council of Governors maintains a strong and direct cultural tie to the Greater Chaco Region through song, prayer, and pilgrimage; and

**WHEREAS**, the All Pueblo Council of Governors has long maintained a nuanced and pragmatic two-part approach toward the protection of Chaco by 1) advocating for withdrawal of federal lands and minerals from future mineral development in an especially critical 10-mile withdrawal area surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park and including its outliers; and 2) seeking tribally-led cultural resource studies and sufficient tribal consultation to precede any other development decisions, including oil and gas leasing, throughout the Greater Chaco Region;



# All Pueblo Council of Governors

Officers:  
Mark Mitchell, Chairman  
Jerome Lucero, Vice-Chairman  
Governor Arden Kucate, Secretary

Acoma

**WHEREAS**, the Department of the Interior (DOI) leased approximately 90 percent of the available federal lands in the Greater Chaco Region for mineral extraction, which has severely impacted traditional cultural properties, including sacred sites and other areas of significance to the Pueblos and Tribes;

Cochiti

Isleta

**WHEREAS**, the Pueblos by initial request from the Navajo Nation met on a government-to-government level in 2017 to assess the impacts of mineral development and seek opportunities to preserve the remaining undeveloped federal lands;

Jemez

Laguna

**WHEREAS**, over the course of several meetings and negotiations between the Navajo Nation and the Pueblos, the concept of withdrawal of federal lands from new mineral development in the 10-mile withdrawal area was created to both protect the sacred landscape and protect Navajo Allottee development rights;

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

**WHEREAS**, unfortunately the Navajo Nation has now switched its position, moving from requesting and supporting the 10-mile withdrawal area down to supporting only a 5-mile withdrawal area, and then in 2023 opposing any withdrawal at all;

Picuris

Pojoaque

**WHEREAS**, on June 2, 2023, DOI issued Public Land Order No. 7923, an administrative withdrawal within the 10-mile withdrawal area of approximately 336,404.42 acres of public lands from new mineral development for a 20-year term, effective June 7, 2023;

Sandia

San Felipe

**WHEREAS**, on June 27, 2023, H.R. 4374, the “Energy Opportunities for All Act,” was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives to nullify Public Land Order No. 7923;

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

**WHEREAS**, on July 13, 2023, the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing to discuss the bill, inviting the Navajo Nation President, Navajo Allottees (both in support and opposition to the bill), an oil and gas corporation representative, and DOI’s Bureau of Land Management Principal Deputy Director to speak as witnesses, and on July 19, 2023, the Committee ultimately reported the bill to the House Floor for a vote; and

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

**WHEREAS**, across the Nation, misinformation and false narratives are being repeated and circulated surrounding the genesis and effects of Public Land Order No. 7923 and the history behind the withdrawal, and thus on July 13, 2023, All Pueblo Council of Governors Chairman Mark Mitchell submitted written testimony to the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources to correct the misinformation;

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni



All Pueblo  
Council of  
Governors

Officers:  
Mark Mitchell, Chairman  
Jerome Lucero, Vice-Chairman  
Governor Arden Kucate, Secretary

Acoma

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for the collective of the All Pueblo Council of Governors to formally via Resolution oppose H.R. 4374 and continue to advocate to preserve Public Land Order No. 7923, as set forth in Resolution No. 2023-08; and

Cochiti

Isleta

**WHEREAS**, the All Pueblo Council of Governors finds it in the best interest of the All Pueblo Council of Governors to enact this Resolution.

Jemez

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors strongly oppose H.R. 4374, as the bill threatens to destroy years of collaborative work among the Pueblos, the Navajo Nation, other Tribes, the State of New Mexico, other local stakeholders, and the New Mexico Congressional Delegation;

Laguna

Nambe

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors commits to continuing its efforts to advocate for the protection of our sacred landscapes and calls on all future generations of Pueblo leaders and people to reflect on this work, recognizing that this preservation of sacred landscapes serves as an example for future advocacy, ensuring that Pueblo languages, cultures, and traditions may always continue; and

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the All Pueblo Council of Governors authorizes the Chairman or the designee to execute and take all actions necessary, including to coordinate with the Hopi Tribe to implement the intent of this Resolution.

Sandia

San Felipe

**CERTIFICATION**

San Ildefonso

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2023-10 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023, and at which time a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of 17 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

**ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**


Santo Domingo

By:   
Mark Mitchell, APCG Chairman

Taos

Tesuque

**ATTEST:**

  
Governor Arden Kucate, APCG Secretary

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni