



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

February 25, 2013

Chairman Sue Ryden and Honorable Members of the
House Committee on State, Veterans, and Military Affairs
Colorado Legislature
Denver, Colorado

Re: HB13-1198.

Dear Chairperson Ryden:

I write on behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council to express support for the passage of HB13-1198. As one of Colorado's two Ute Tribes, we have been involved in the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs since its creation through statute in the 1970's. For many years, the Commission has supported and assisted us in our dealings with the State and we have relied upon the quarterly meetings of the Commission to build a strong and positive relationship with numerous state departments.

HB13-1198 is a straightforward measure that updates the Commission's organic statute and provides some minor but needed fixes. For example, the bill would amend the composition of the Commission to clarify the state Executive Directors who sit on the Commission, allow for the appointment of at-large members every three years instead of every year, and clarify that the Commission may consult with any party it needs to in order to serve its mission. The bill would also empower the Governor to appoint ex-officio (non-voting) members to the Commission and would change the title of the Executive Secretary to Executive Director. Lastly, the bill separates and thereby clarifies the Commission's duties and powers.

We fully support the changes outlined by HB13-1198 as they will help with the efficiency and effectiveness of the Commission. For example, changing the appointment of at-large members from an annual process to once every three years will help ensure consistency in the Commission's membership and eliminate the need to re-appoint at-large member each year. As such, the Commission will maintain more experienced members for a longer time and also have additional time and resources that have been taken up through the annual advertising and appointment process for at-large members. In addition, although each of the changes proposed by HB13-1198 are important, they are primarily technical or non-substantive in nature and only add clarity to the Commission's operations without requiring additional appropriations.

Therefore, the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council urges you to pass HB13-1198 and move it forward for final passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy R. Newton, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Jimmy R. Newton, Jr., Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council