Executive Order 2006-14
Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes

WHEREAS, Arizona is home to 22 federally-recognized American Indian Tribes ("Tribes") who have existed since time immemorial, long before the formation of the United States and the entry of the State of Arizona into the union; and

WHEREAS, the land of these 22 Tribes comprises approximately 28% of Arizona's land base; and

WHEREAS, these tribal members are citizens of our great State, possess all the rights and privileges afforded by Arizona to its citizens, and, along with other American Indians, comprise approximately five percent of Arizona's population; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona recognizes and supports the right of these 22 tribal governments to exercise sovereign authority, as defined by federal law, over their members and their territory; and

WHEREAS, it benefits the State of Arizona to partner with tribal governments on issues affecting all of Arizona as well as to ensure that state services and resources are available to all eligible state citizens residing in Arizona tribal communities to the same extent that such services are available to all other eligible state citizens; and

WHEREAS, a spirit of cooperation should guide the continuing government-to-government relationships between the State of Arizona and the Tribes that call Arizona home; and

WHEREAS, meaningful and timely consultation with Arizona's Tribal leaders will facilitate better understanding and informed decision making.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, hereby order and direct as follows:

1. All Executive Branch agencies shall develop and implement tribal consultation policies to guide their work and interaction with federally-recognized Tribes in Arizona. Consultation requires that to the extent practicable and permitted by law, state agencies and offices shall seek input from appropriate elected or appointed tribal officials before undertaking any action or policy that will, or is reasonably believed to, have the potential to affect a tribal community or its members. Further, state agencies and offices shall, to the fullest extent possible and to the best of their ability, integrate the input generated from tribal consultation into their decision-making processes to achieve mutually acceptable solutions.

2. All Executive Branch agencies shall designate a member of their staff to assume responsibility for the agency's implementation of the tribal consultation policy and to act as the principle point of contact for tribal issues.

3. All Executive Branch agencies shall review their tribal consultation policies each year and submit an electronic report to the Governor and the Legislature to describe all action undertaken as a result of the implementation of these policies. Electronic copies of these annual reports shall be provided to the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs, which will make them available to Arizona's tribal leaders.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 14th day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-First.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE