



National  
Caucus of  
Native  
American  
State  
Legislators

c/o National Conference  
of State Legislatures

7700 East First Place  
Denver, Colorado, 80230  
303.364.7700  
Fax: 303.364.7800  
[www.nativeamericanlegislators.org](http://www.nativeamericanlegislators.org)

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## NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS

### RESOLUTION DEMANDING THAT UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA IMMEDIATELY AND PUBLICLY APOLOGIZE TO NATIVE AMERICANS AND INDIAN NATIONS FOR THE DISRESPECTFUL USE OF GERONIMO'S NAME IN ASSOCIATION WITH OSAMA BIN LADEN

The National Caucus of Native American State Legislators (NCNASL) is made up of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian State Legislators from 18 states and is organized to provide a forum for discussion, education and increased communication. Additionally, the NCNASL identifies and proposes legislation and administrative actions to eliminate barriers to achievement of a better quality of life for Native people.

**WHEREAS** the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators was formed in 1992 and formally established in its current form in 2005, with the goals of increasing awareness of the diverse Native American cultures in the United States, encouraging open dialogues, understanding, and cooperation between state and Indian nation governments; and

**WHEREAS** the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators has long sought to promote cultural understanding between American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian peoples and all other cultural traditions through recognition of the many contributions of minority cultures; and

**WHEREAS** one cultural icon of Native American heritage includes Geronimo, an Apache Indian leader and warrior, and a man of incredible courage who defended his people against the annihilation of the Apache Nation and its people; and

**WHEREAS** Geronimo fought to protect his family, relatives, land and way of life. He fought for freedom and liberty; and

**WHEREAS** in the eyes of Native American people and the many Indian nations in the United States, Geronimo was truly an American patriot; and

**WHEREAS** Native Americans men and women have served honorably in the U.S. military and many have served as Code Talkers during the two World Wars; and

**WHEREAS** the work of the United States Navy Seals, the CIA and our nation's leaders, including United States President Barack Obama for the successful mission in finding Osama bin Laden is commendable; and

**WHEREAS** the attachment of Geronimo's name, however, to the world's most notorious terrorist Osama bin Laden is an outrage and an affront to all Native Americans especially those who have served honorably in defense of this country; and

**WHEREAS** the attachment of Geronimo's name to Osama bin Laden is disrespectful of all Native Americans and perpetuates stereotyping of Native American people; and

**WHEREAS** Native American leaders and Indian nations have called upon President Barack Obama to immediately and publicly apologize to Native American people and Indian nations; however, to date, there has been no apology from the President.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators hereby demands that President Barack Obama immediately and publicly apologize to the Native Americans and Indian nations for the disrespectful use of the name Geronimo in association with Osama bin Laden.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators further authorizes and directs the Chair of the National Caucus to do any and all things necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution including transmission of the same to the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress.

**Sponsored by:** Representative Albert Hale (AZ), Senator Jack Jackson, Jr. (AZ)

**Approved date is:** August 3, 2011

**Certified by Caucus Chair:** Representative John McCoy (WA)

**Ratified certified by:** The NCNASL, August 3, 2011

**Distribution List:** The President  
Members of Congress  
Other federal and state government officials as appropriate