

# TAOS



# PUEBLO

## Governor's Office

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February 5, 2007

Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development  
Attention: Section 1813 ROW Study  
Room 20 – South Interior Building  
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20245

**Re: December 21, 2006 Draft Report to Congress – Section 1813, Energy Policy Act of 2005**

Dear Secretary Kempthorne and Secretary Bodman:

On behalf of the Pueblo of Taos (“the Pueblo”), I submit the following comments on the December 2006 Draft Report to Congress under Section 1813.

The December Draft Report is well-documented and thorough, given the very short time Section 1813 gave the Departments to study this complex set of issues. This draft of the report properly identifies the importance of the tribal consent requirement in protecting tribal sovereignty and supporting tribal self-determination. The report also documents that energy consumers are not being harmed by tribes who seek fair compensation for the use of their reservation lands. After careful study, the Departments have come to the correct conclusion: valuation of energy rights-of-way on tribal land should continue to be based on the terms negotiated between the parties.

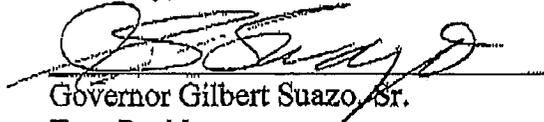
Weakening the long-standing requirement of tribal consent for rights-of-way and imposing a single valuation method on all tribes would be a huge step in the wrong direction. We are pleased that the Departments have rejected that approach.

The Pueblo sees the December Draft Report as a strong endorsement of our continuing efforts to build respectful and mutually beneficial business relationships with

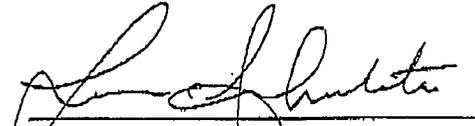
our energy industry partners.

Thank you for treating these issues seriously and professionally.

Sincerely,



Governor Gilbert Suazo, Sr.  
Taos Pueblo



War Chief Louis Archuleta  
Taos Pueblo