

RAMAH NAVAJO CHAPTER

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Press Release

The Ramah Navajo Chapter filed this lawsuit 25 years ago. Our fellow Class Representatives and friends from the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Pueblo of Zuni—our neighbors here in New Mexico—have tenaciously stuck together in a long legal battle against the U. S. government. Now thanks to our victory in the Supreme Court, we have come to a historic agreement with the government. This agreement must be approved by the District Court here in New Mexico. We call on all Indian tribes and their organizations contracting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to support this agreement.

This settlement will be remembered as a landmark victory by over 645 tribes and tribal organizations across the country that operate programs under the Self-Determination Act. It will promote the Act’s goal of tribal self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and self-governance for generations to come and reduce unemployment on our reservations. Our government programs and services have suffered because the government has been underpaying us. The two sides have been in a long dispute which should now end. After our victory in the Supreme Court, we have been in a long, hard-fought negotiation and have reached an honorable compromise. We thank the government and all those lawyers and experts, including Magistrate Judge Molzen, who helped us reach this agreement.


David Jose, President
Ramah Navajo Chapter
