

JOHN McCAIN  
ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,  
EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

October 14, 2011

The Honorable Terry Rambler  
Chairman  
San Carlos Apache Tribe  
P.O. Box 0  
#3 San Carlos Avenue  
San Carlos, Arizona 85550

Dear Chairman Rambler:

Thank you for visiting me yesterday in Washington. I greatly appreciate hearing about matters important to you and the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Based on our discussion, it appears that although construction of San Carlos Rural Healthcare Center (RHC) is progressing much remains to be done. I agree with you that completing the RHC in a timely manner is important for staying on-budget and providing tribal members with critically needed healthcare services. Following our last meeting in May 2011, I wrote the Indian Health Service (IHS) to inquire about shortfalls in the IHS budget for facility construction projects. A response to my inquiry was received on July 28, 2011, and was forwarded to your office. I stand ready to assist the tribe where appropriate in determining how IHS can better use its resources to complete the RHC.

Another matter you raised included the condemned Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) law enforcement building ("Building 86"). I share your frustration that the BIA left the tribe's law enforcement division to rely on an unsafe and inadequate operations facility. The San Carlos Apache Reservation faces significant challenges when it comes to combating crime, drug use and domestic violence. It's objectionable that BIA would condemn and vacate Building 86 before coordinating or making reasonable accommodations with the tribe so as to not compromise your law enforcement responsibilities. As we discussed, please provide information to my staff about your needs as they relate to Building 86 as well as details about the conditions of the temporary trailers BIA offered the tribe. I look forward to coordinating with my fellow members of the Arizona congressional delegation on this matter.

Finally, as I've repeatedly asked you in person and in writing, I urge you and your fellow tribal officials to meet with Resolution Copper Mining, LLC, in good faith. It deeply concerns me that despite your report of a 70% unemployment rate on the reservation, the tribe's leadership refuses to explore the tremendous opportunity the Mine project will mean to your people. It is, of course, the tribe's sovereign right to take whatever position it sees fit on matters before Congress, and I do not ask that the tribe change its policy solely at my request. I only ask that you and your colleagues make a genuine effort to learn about the project and fully understand its importance to the tribe's economic future.

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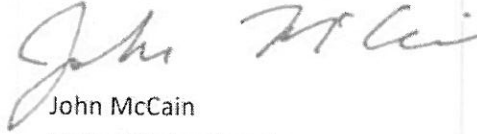
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Again, thank you taking the time to visit with me. Please be assured that I will continue to assist you where I can in all matters affecting the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John McCain". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John McCain  
United States Senator