

WHEREAS, the Native American Church of North America, Inc. (NACNA) is advancing administrative and legislative proposals to the Executive Branch and Congress to protect the environmental integrity of the Peyote Gardens, including a Peyote Habitat Conservation Project (Peyote Habitat Conservation Project or PHC Project) to counteract the rapidly fading Peyote habitat, and seeking federal appropriations for same; and

WHEREAS, the NACNA has requested the assistance of NAC-SNM to support their efforts, and the NAC-SNM board has discussed the request, and reaffirmed its support of NACNA effort to engage and seek support of the Federal and Tribal partners on the efforts described herein; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2022, the NAC-SNM supported the NACNA *Congressional and Biden Administration Briefing of AIRFA and Peyote Habitat Preservation* to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Native American Church; and work to renew their commitment to cultural preservation and land conservation in partnership with the NAC to enable a continuous supply of our holy Medicine so that the NAC may truly enjoy the promise of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act; and

WHEREAS, on August 11, 1978, via the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, Congress adopted the “policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiians, including but not limited to access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonials and traditional rites”; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 1994, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act 1994 Amendments (AIRFA 1994) was enacted and explicitly recognizes the rights of members of federally recognized tribes in the United States of America to the use of the Sacrament Peyote; and

WHEREAS, on October 12, 2019, the NAC-SNM commemorated the 25th Anniversary of AIRFA 1994 in Shiprock, Navajo Nation, New Mexico to reaffirm our rights to ceremonial practices and to reinforce the significant impact and protections this law affords the Native American Church; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2024, the AIRFA 1994 Amendments will achieve its 30th anniversary since enactment; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to secure continued access to the Sacrament Peyote for the generations to come and the continuation of our way of life.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAC-SNM hereby reaffirms its recognition and support for the historic and contemporary rights of the Native American Church community regarding the sacramental use of Peyote; and