

**Meeting the needs of the Arizona  
Citizens in Rural & Remote areas**

This interim study committee will examine the requirements for connectivity to the Internet and recommend a permanent funding source for telecommunication infrastructure investments in rural and remote areas. We believe this is a "fair and equitable" bill that has the potential to benefit all Arizona tribes and offers rural Arizona an opportunity to compete in the global knowledge-based economy.

Currently, connectivity to the Internet requires at least basic telephone service. In 1998, National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) ranked Arizona 36th in the nation in percentage of households with telephones, with 92% of the state's households having telephone compared to the national average at 94.1%. In 2000, the US Census reported that 3.7% of Arizona's houses do not have telephone service, compared to 2.4% nationally.

Funds can fulfill the needs of:

- Basic telephone service
- Emergency 9-1-1 Service
- Voice Over Internet Protocol
- Tele-video conference
- Tele-medicine/ Tele-Health
- Distance learning
- E-commerce
- E-government
- Homeland Security
- Disaster Recovery

**Arizona Indian Tribes**

- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Cocopah Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
- Fort Yuma-Quechan Tribe
- Gila River Indian Community
- Havasupai Tribe
- The Hopi Tribe
- Hualapai Tribe
- Kaibab-Paiute Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Salt River Pima- Maricopa Indian Community
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- San Juan Southern Paiute
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Tonto Apache Tribe
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Yavapai-Apache Nation
- Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe
- Zuni Tribe

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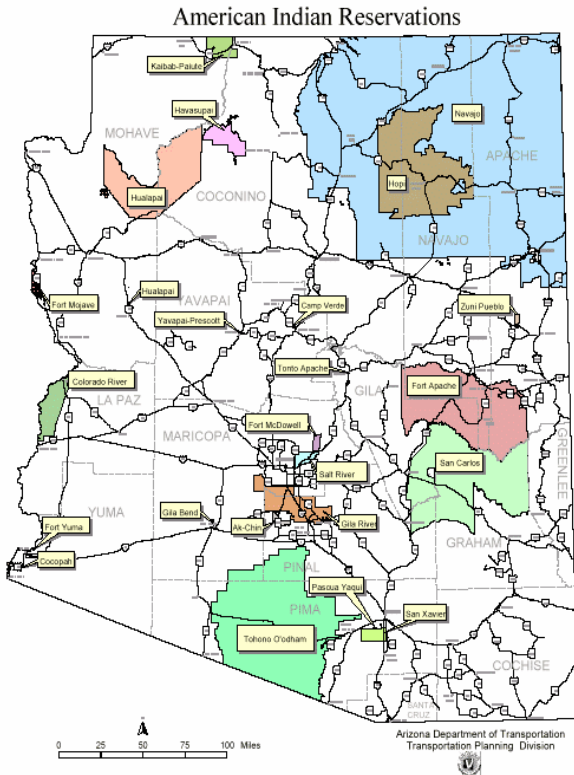


*Tribes & States  
Working Together  
to Address the  
Telecommunication  
Needs  
Of Rural &  
Remote Areas*



## Arizona Indian Tribes

Arizona's 22 Indian Tribes and Nations are facing the challenges of the 21st Century, with its new ways of conducting business on a global scale. Unlike many communities, though, most tribal communities lack the infrastructure and technology to fully realize the benefits of a New Economy (21st Town Arizona Indian Town Hall Report)



## HELP US CLOSE THE "DIGITAL DIVIDE" ON INDIAN COUNTRY

In January 2006, the Navajo Nation Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (NNTRC) and the Navajo Nation Communication and Utilities Department (NNCUD) introduced an important piece of legislation at the Arizona 47<sup>th</sup> Legislature – Second Regular Session. The legislation entailed the creation of a Joint Legislative Study Committee to research, identify and recommend state funding sources for tribal telecommunication needs on Arizona's Indian reservations.

**Governor Napolitano signed House Bill 2689 into law on May 19, 2006.** The Joint Legislative Study Committee will conduct series of meetings to hear testimony from tribal and non-tribal stakeholders on tribal telecommunications needs and issues. Upon conclusion of these meetings, the Committee would submit a report of their findings to the Speaker of the House, Senate President, the Governor and stakeholders. More importantly, the Committee would recommend tribal telecommunications legislation that incorporates the identified funding sources at the 2008 legislative session.



HOUSE BILL 2689  
stipulates:

- A. The reservation telecommunications legislative study committee is established consisting of the following members:
  1. Three members of the house of representative...
  2. Three members of the senate...
- B. The committee shall:
  1. Identify methods to track tribal contributions to the state transaction privilege tax.
  2. Identify an appropriate distribution formula that is modeled after the current city and state shared formulas.
  3. Identify an appropriate transaction privilege tax distribution process for the tribal governments.
  4. Recommend tribal telecommunications legislation that incorporates the state transaction privilege tax.
  5. Submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate on or before June 30, 2007.
- C. ...the study committee may only conduct a total of five meetings.

### Appointed Reservation Telecommunications Legislative Study Committee Members:

Senator Albert Hale  
Senator Jake Flake  
Senator Jay Tibshraney  
Representative Ann Kirkpatrick  
Representative Bill Konopnicki  
Representative John Nelson

### Study Committee Proposed Schedule

February 2007  
March 2007  
April 2007  
May 2007  
June 2007