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SENATE APPROVES REYES' TIGUA BILL

Bill now heads to President Obama's Desk for Approval

Washington, D.C., Aug 2 - Today, Congressman Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas) announced that the U.S. Senate on Wednesday night passed the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Blood Quantum Bill, H.R. 1560, legislation that he authored that would eliminate the one-eighth blood requirement on the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo. The bill now goes to President Barack Obama for approval.

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"We reached an important and crucial milestone Wednesday night when the Senate approved my legislation to preserve the federally recognized status of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo by eliminating the unfairly-imposed 1/8 blood quantum requirement," Congressman Reyes said. "I thank my colleagues in the Senate for their work."

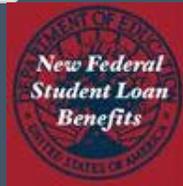
"Passage of the Blood Quantum Bill has been the Pueblo's highest priority. Determining our own membership requirements not only benefits our individual members but it enables us to exercise our rights as a sovereign nation in safeguarding the existence of the entire Pueblo. We are extremely grateful to Congressman Reyes and the entire team who worked on getting this vital legislation passed," said the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribal Council.

Of the 565 federally-recognized Native American tribes, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo is the only tribe whose membership is dictated by the federal government rather than its own members. By eliminating this unfair tribal enrollment requirement, the Congress would give the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo the same rights afforded to every other federally-recognized Native American tribe, and allow them to preserve their unique heritage based on shared history, customs, and language, in addition to tribal blood. This bill will ensure the preservation of Texas' oldest community, and the only remaining pueblo in the state.

"This bill now heads to the President's desk for his signature -- and its enactment is not only important for the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, but also for the entire El Paso community," Congressman Reyes said. "I commend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and remain committed to their cause and service."

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Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

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