

MARTIN HEINRICH
NEW MEXICO

(202) 224-5521
(202) 228-2841 FAX
Heinrich.Senate.Gov

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
JOINT ECONOMIC

May 25, 2016

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

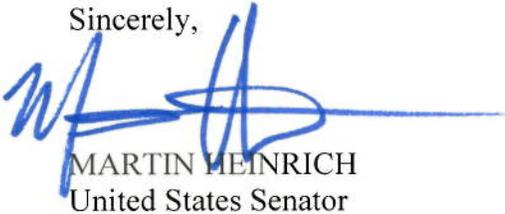
I write to urge the Department of State to take all possible action to help repatriate stolen cultural items to Native American tribes. The United States must do everything in its power to ensure that priceless Native American cultural artifacts are returned to the rightful homes instead of being sold off to the highest bidder.

The Pueblo of Acoma has identified an item as cultural patrimony that is set for auction in France on May 30, 2016. The Pueblo has previously been unable to halt foreign auctions of their cultural patrimony, which has resulted in profound damage to the Pueblo's control over their own sacred objects. I urge you to work with your French counterparts to halt the auction before more of the Pueblo's cultural history is sold off into private collections.

I have included the Pueblo's original request to you and Attorney General Loretta Lynch with this letter. If you or your staff have any additional questions, I encourage you to contact my staff, Ernesto Rodriguez, at ernesto_rodriguez@heinrich.senate.gov.

I appreciate your timely response in this important matter.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator

ALBUQUERQUE
400 GOLD AVENUE SW
SUITE 1080
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102
(505) 346-6601
(505) 346-6780 FAX

FARMINGTON
7450 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE A
FARMINGTON, NM 87402
(505) 325-5030
(505) 325-6035 FAX

LAS CRUCES
505 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 148
LAS CRUCES, NM 88001
(575) 523-6561
(575) 523-6584 FAX

ROSWELL
200 EAST 4TH STREET
SUITE 300
ROSWELL, NM 88201
(575) 622-7113
(575) 622-3538 FAX

SANTA FE
123 EAST MARCY STREET
SUITE 103
SANTA FE, NM 87501
(505) 988-6647
(505) 992-8435 FAX