



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians

Resolution #ECWS-10-006

TITLE: Support for Selection of Tribal Seats to the National Ocean Council

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, many of the NCAI Member Tribes have depended upon the ocean waters, coasts and the great lakes as its resources for the sustenance and livelihood of their members; and

WHEREAS, Tribes exercise their inherent sovereignty to regulate activities of their members throughout their territories, as well as in the adjacent ocean waters; and

WHEREAS, all member tribes are committed to resource sustainability, co-management and the developing consensus based solutions that are legally, politically and technically feasible; and

WHEREAS, the United States has embarked on the development of a National Ocean Policy and creations of a new management framework with the National Ocean Council as its governance body; and

WHEREAS, Comment period on the Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning concluded on February 12, 2010, and anticipating a quick implementation of the plan, there is a limited time for influencing selection of seats on the National Ocean Council; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the National Ocean Council can affect the natural and cultural resources that affect all tribal rights or interests; and

WHEREAS, the current U.S. Department of Justice Policy on Indian Sovereignty and Government-to-Government Relations with Indian Tribes recognizes

Tribal rights to self-determination, self-governance, treaty resource protection, and the protection of Tribal religion and culture.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the efforts of the Tribes to engage in this national management process to provide tribal perspectives regarding improving ocean waters, coasts and the great lakes governance and advocate for the increased protection of ocean areas, great lakes, tribal trust resources and the exercise of tribal rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI respectfully requests that the National Ocean Council support tribal seats from regional locales in Indian Country located on ocean waters, coasts and the great lakes to participate in the implementation of new National Ocean Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.