

## **NCAI Update # 363 - June 22, 2001**

**House Passes FY2002 Interior Appropriations Bill** – On June 21, the House passed, by a 376-32 margin, its FY2002 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (H.R. 2217, H.Rept. 107-103).

With a few exceptions, H.R. 2217 mirrors the President's FY2002 budget request for Indian programs. For an analysis of the President's budget request for BIA and IHS programs, see Legislative Update #343, dated April 9, 2001. The House bill is summarized in Legislative Update #362, dated June 14, 2001.

No Indian-related amendments were debated during floor consideration. The bill now moves to the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee for further action, but it is unclear when the Subcommittee will take up the measure due to unresolved organizational issues in the wake of the switch to Democratic control of the body.

**House Passes Resolution to Honor Native Americans** – On June 20, the House passed a resolution (H. Res. 168) by unanimous consent that called for all schools in America to honor the contributions made by Native Americans to the United States' history, culture, and education.

Sponsored by Representative Joe Baca (D-CA) and brought to the floor by Representative Michael Castle (R-DE), the resolution takes note of the reverence that Native people show for the United States and its symbols, as well as the sacrifices Native people have made in the defense of our country.

"This is about proud Americans who have given so much to this country," said Congressman Baca in a press release. "We must educate and sensitize our children about Native Americans and what they have done for our nation. [This resolution] is about making at least some amends for the unspeakable harm we have done to a proud and noble people. By recognizing and honoring them, maybe we can start healing the wounds created by a history of distrust and genocide!"

This resolution and House Resolution 101, also sponsored by Congressman Baca, are the first steps toward the creation of a national public holiday on the fourth Friday in September to honor Native Americans. Congressman Baca said, "this is just the beginning, we will continue the struggle, fight the fight, we will not stop, we will not rest, until there is a Native American holiday!" NCAI supports Congressman Baca and thanks him and the cosponsors of these resolutions for their work for Indian people in the Congressional Native American Caucus.

**For more information, please contact NCAI at (202) 466-7767.**

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