

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS**

**RESOLUTION #SPO-01-032**

**Title: EPA & OMB-Tribal Core Water Quality Standards**

**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**, the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for environment, health and safety of all peoples within the external boundaries of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, states have received this protection since the early 1970s and have progressed in developing the environmental infrastructure and programs within their states having received extraordinary environmental technical and financial support by EPA; and

**WHEREAS**, EPA has only in the last few years commenced to include Indian tribes, their reservations and trust lands; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes have been subjected to the most serious environmental conditions over these years while the Tribes still linger far behind states in environmental infrastructure and program support; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal governments need Tribal Core Water Quality Standards as only 12 tribes have WQS throughout the United States leaving 560 tribal governments are vulnerable to water pollution consumption; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Core Water Quality Standards (CWQS) were developed over the last four years, signed by the EPA Administrator Browner in January 2001, submitted to OMB who returned them to EPA; and

**WHEREAS**, Administrator Whitman signed the CWQS and again resubmitted CWQS to OMB, who returned them with by letter calling for more consultation and cost benefit analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, OMB has not taken into consideration the treaties, statutes and policies that govern relations between the United States and tribe(s); and

**WHEREAS**, EPA by Congressional action, has the legal responsibility for providing environmental protection throughout the United States including Indian Country.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby request President Bush and Administrator Whitman to expedite the publishing of the Tribal Core Water Quality Standards in order to protect our tribal members and their families; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that President Bush and Administrator Whitman continue the support of tribal environmental programs and the progress which actually commenced with former President George Bush implementation of the 1984 EPA Indian Policy; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.

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Tex Hall, President

**ATTEST:**

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Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.