

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS**

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-088

Title: Department of the Interior and Assistant Secretary Requested to Cease and Desist from Pursuing Ill Advised Proposal to Create a New Agency to Replace BIA Responsibility to Safeguard Tribal Trust Assets

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 United States Government has a trust responsibility to Federally-recognized Tribes which is discharged through the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); and

WHEREAS, historically the BIA is the lead agency charged with providing services and safeguarding Tribal resources as pledged by Treaties, Executive Orders and ratified by numerous mishandling of trust assets; and

WHEREAS, in order to appease a court-appointed overseer of Trust Assets management activity, the Department of Interior is proposing to completely overhaul the BIA to remedy years of mishandling of trust assets.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby demand that the Department of the Interior and the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs immediately cease and desist from pursuing it's ill-advised proposal to create a new agency to replace the BIA's responsibility to safeguard Tribal trust assets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of the Interior cease and desist from pursuing any further actions, unless and until, direct consultation is completed with every Federally-recognized tribe in the United States; 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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.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 58th 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.

Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

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