



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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RESOLUTION #SPO-01-001

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Tex G. Hall
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation

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*Ohkay Owingeh
(Pueblo of San Juan)*

RECORDING SECRETARY
Colleen F. Cawston
Colville Confederated Tribes

TREASURER
Alma Ransom
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Title: Opposition to H.R. 1239

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians in our own distinct territories, 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, H.R. 1239 is a bill to establish a moratorium on approval by the Secretary of the Interior of relinquishment of a lease of certain tribal lands in California. This bill poses a serious threat to Tribal Sovereignty. First, the bill would over-ride fundamental principles of Tribal Sovereignty by destroying legal agreements reached between a Tribe, the Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and a consortium of 7 Kumeyaay Tribes (the Bands of Barona, Campo, Ewiiapaayp, Jamul, La Posta, and Viejas), that is the Southern Indian Health Council, Inc. (SIHC). The bill would over-ride the majority of vote rules that SIHC, Inc. adopted over a decade ago; and

WHEREAS, this bill would over-ride SIHC Board decisions made – (a) in the open, (b) by local people, (c) about a local matter, and (d) by a majority vote of the Directors under SIHC rules of procedure; and

WHEREAS, the bill will prohibit the Ewiiapaayp Band from spending \$11.5 million dollars to construct and equip much-needed new health clinics. This bill will also deny the Indians served by the SIHC the benefit of expanded health facilities and services. In addition, the Ewiiapaayp Band

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will also contribute an estimated 100 million dollars in supplemental health funding over the following 15 years; and

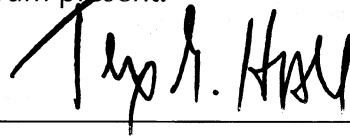
WHEREAS, this bill is premised on a series of misrepresentations and errors of fact; and

WHEREAS, this bill deeply offends all tribes. It would strip the Ewiiapaayp Band of their right to determine the use their trust land to improve SIHC health care and to begin tribal economic development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby oppose the enactment of H.R. 1239 by the Congress of the United States of America.

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 F. 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.