



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-013

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Tex G. Hall
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation

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Colville Confederated Tribes

TREASURER
Alma Ransom
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Title: Supporting a Permanent Native American Veteran's Home Loan Program

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, Native American veterans have served the United States with honor and distinction even before Native Americans were recognized as citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Indian people have the highest percentage of veterans of any population within the United States and carry the proud distinction of being the most decorated group in United States history; and

WHEREAS, according to the Veterans Administration, over 160,000 American Indians have served in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, despite this long history of service, Native American veterans continue to have substantial unmet housing needs, especially for housing on trust lands; and

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WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs implemented the Native American Veterans Housing Loan Pilot Program ("Program") (38 U.S.C. § 3761 et seq.) to provide direct loans to veterans to purchase, construct, or improve dwellings on trust land; and

WHEREAS, in contradiction to the moral and trust obligation the United States has to Native American veterans, proposals have been made to allow private lending institutions, rather than the Department of Veterans Affairs, to administer the Program; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Veterans Housing Loan Pilot Program is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians has previously supported the establishment of the Native American Veterans Housing Loan Pilot Program as a permanent program to be administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (NCAI Resolution #PSC-99-115); and

WHEREAS, bills now pending in the United States Congress, including H.R. 1929 and S. 228 would improve, extend, or make permanent the Native American Veterans Housing Loan Pilot Program.

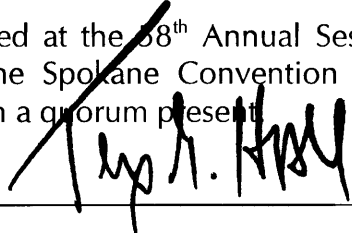
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the permanent extension of the Native American Veterans Housing Loan Pilot Program ("Program"); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI urges the United States Congress, with the Department of Veterans Affairs' active support, to (1) make the Program permanent, (2) make loan amounts equitable with the local standard of housing depending upon geographic location and economic standards, and (3) keep the Program within the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

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

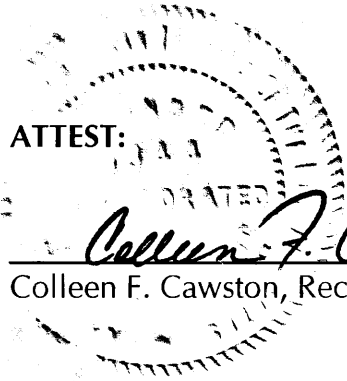
CERTIFICATION

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 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.