



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-019

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: SBA Economic/Business Development Training and Technical Assistance Funding for Tribal Business Information Centers

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, historically, Indian Tribes and Nations have been recognized as separate political and economic entities; which has often led to great economic and social inequities for Tribes and their members; and

WHEREAS, historically, the great potential of Indian reservations for further economic development has not been fully realized; and

WHEREAS, the lack of economic development has led to consistently high rates of unemployment and great hardship for Indian people on many reservations, with unemployment rates regularly exceeding 35% of all employable adults, many times the national average; and

WHEREAS, the passage of welfare reform legislation creates additional urgent incentives for the continued creation of jobs and highlights the need for sustainable economic development on Indian reservations, since as welfare programs are ended, Indian people on the reservations will need quality employment opportunities; and

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WHEREAS, various programs which have been enacted, such as the BIA economic development office, which allows businesses owned by Indian tribes and Indian individuals to take advantage of opportunities for business development; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has created Tribal Business Information Centers (TBIC) on Indian reservations in Montana, Washington, South Dakota, and North Dakota providing incentives for business on reservations and providing business opportunities for Indian and Tribal owned businesses; and

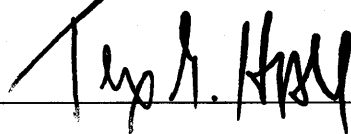
WHEREAS, the SBA needs to fund TBIC on Indian reservations in Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oklahoma, and on Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support this resolution and urges the SBA, the United States Congress, and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, to appropriate \$25 million for funding the Small Business Administration Office of Native American Affairs for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance, and for the development and expansion of TBIC's in New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oklahoma, and Navajo Nation reservation businesses; 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.