



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-027

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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TREASURER
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Title: Support of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Clean Water Project

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, protection of Mille Lacs Lake's water quality is a major goal of those who value the environment of Minnesota, which has long set a standard for the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mille Lacs Lake is a unique Minnesota natural resource that provides outdoor recreation for residents and tourists who stimulate the state and local economies; and

WHEREAS, aging and inadequate septic tanks along the western shore of Mille Lacs Lake place the lake's water quality at risk; and

WHEREAS, a unique partnership between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the city of Garrison has been formed to build a new wastewater treatment plant to serve 10,000 residents along the lake's western shore and direct treated water away from the lake; and

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WHEREAS, the new plant will treat 625,000 gallons of sewage each day, discharging it as clean water and rich bio-solids at or below limits set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state Pollution Control Agency; and

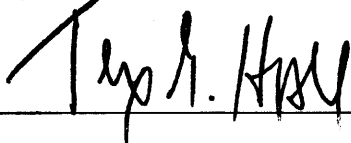
WHEREAS, some Mille Lacs County officials, in concert with anti-Indian forces in the area, have tried to block construction of the plant by spreading misinformation about Indian motives and threatening court action; and

WHEREAS, if this group succeeds in delaying the wastewater treatment plant, protection of the lake water will be put off for years, resulting in continued risk to Mille Lacs Lake.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the City of Garrison in their plans to construct a wastewater treatment plan to serve the western shore of Mille Lacs Lake and believes that construction should be completed at the earliest possible date.

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.