



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-031

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Tex G. Hall
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Joe A. Garcia
*Ohkay Owingeh
(Pueblo of San Juan)*

RECORDING SECRETARY
Colleen F. Cawston
Colville Confederated Tribes

TREASURER
Alma Ransom
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Title: EPA Tribal Environmental Programs

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, United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes passed a similar Resolution No. USET 2002:023; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for environment, health and safety of all peoples within the external boundaries of the United States; and

WHEREAS, state governments have received this protection since the early 1970s and have progressed in developing the environmental infrastructure and programs within their states having received overwhelming support by EPA over these thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, EPA has only in the past few years commenced to include Indian Tribes, their reservations and trust lands in only a handful of environmental programs; and

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline L. Johnson
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

WHEREAS, tribes have been subjected to the most serious environmental conditions and still linger far behind in environmental infrastructure development and program support; and

WHEREAS, the budget has been placed in question due to terrorism and actions against America, our home; and

WHEREAS, the tribes support the President's actions taken in regard to protecting America and all peoples; and

WHEREAS, tribes have a magnificent and truly great history in defending America, having members in all the armed forces with many tribal veterans making up our Tribal Governments and leadership; and

WHEREAS, our environmental programs are too slowly evolving into efficient and effective Tribal Departments of Environmental Protection due to the lack of resources.

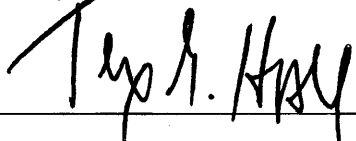
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request President Bush, Administrator Whitman and other Departments and Agencies, and the Congress to protect the Indian programs and respective budgets in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all tribal programs support our basic environmental governmental infrastructure and in protecting our families and members; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution or until the intent is completely carried on behalf of the Tribes and respective governments.

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.