



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-036

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Title: Resolution of Support of a Meeting Between the Tribes/First Nations of the Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island and the United States Secretary of Interior in Boston

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, Deer Island and other islands of the Boston Harbor Island are important in Indian history due to their use as concentration camps during the King Phillip's war (1675-1678) and have ever since been seen as both burial grounds sites and historical & political symbols to Indians; and

WHEREAS, the Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island (MICDI) was formed as the official representational and joint policy body of the contemporary tribes and bands descendant from the historic Muhheconnew National Confederacy which today seek to work together to preserve Deer Island and any Native American remains which are there; and

WHEREAS, the Penobscot Nation is a participant tribe in the Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island (MICDI); and

WHEREAS, meetings have been ongoing between and within the Indian tribes/bands of the Muhheconneuk Intertribal Committee on Deer Island (MICDI) that have resulted in a strong consensus of a joint policy in

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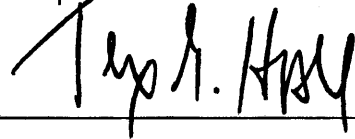
support of the MICDI Indian Community Meetings Proposal, as well as other joint policies regarding Deer Island and the other islands in the Boston Harbor Islands National Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the request of the Penobscot Nation on behalf of the MICDI to have a meeting with the United States Secretary of Interior, Gale A. Norton, in Boston Massachusetts, to discuss the implementation of the MICDI Indian Community Meeting Proposal and to begin to set up a framework for the establishment of a continued and periodic forum of dialogue between the Office of the United States Secretary of Interior and the collective body of Indian tribes indigenous to the northeastern coastal region regarding issues of joint concern and interest; 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



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.