



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-037

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Title: The Administration for Native Americans to Support Inter-Tribal
Regional Information Dissemination and Policy and Technical
Training for Energy and Electricity Markets Restructuring**

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, the federal government has a trust responsibility to tribes that is a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation of the United States to protect tribal lands, assets, resources and treaty rights, as well as a duty to carry out the mandates of federal law with respect to American Indians and Alaskan Native tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) is a federal program established to promote the goal of social and economic self-sufficiency of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and to foster the development of stable, diversified local economies and economic activities which will provide jobs, promote economic well-being, and reduce dependency on public funds and social services. ANA defines self-sufficiency as the level of development at which a Native American community can control and internally generate resources to provide for the needs of its members and meet its own economic and social goals; and

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WHEREAS, ANA awards competitive financial assistance grants in support of locally determined and designed projects to address community needs and goals of Native Americans for social and economic development strategies (SEDS); and

WHEREAS, the access to reliable and reasonable priced electricity and other power sources are crucial to tribes for successful economic and social development; and

WHEREAS, information dissemination, policy and technical training on energy market and electricity regulation restructuring on a regional and national level is vital for tribes to effectively participate in the energy market and take advantage of market incentives that will enable tribes to achieve economic prosperity and energy self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Energy Network (ITEN), an ad-hoc coalition, is composed of regional and national inter-tribal organizations including: Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, All Indian Pueblo Council, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Mni Sose Inter-Tribal Water Rights Coalitions Inc., Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association and Intertribal Council on Utility Policy, has worked in cooperation to develop a National Tribal Energy Vision and developed national legislative recommendations to remove policy and regulatory barriers that impede tribes from becoming effective players in the energy market and becoming energy self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, the inter-tribal organizations are not able to adequately to provide information dissemination, policy and technical training on energy market and electricity regulation restructuring services to their member tribes due to lack of adequate funding.

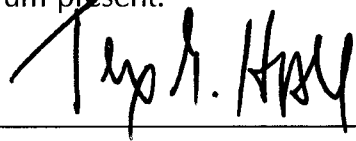
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby assert that ANA should adequately fund and support regional inter-tribal organizations through their SEDS grant program for information dissemination, policy and technical training on energy market and electricity regulations services to member tribes in their region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ANA shall award competitive grants to inter-tribal organizations according to energy issues to be address and geographic location will not be the only determination for awarding grants; 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.