



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-040

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Tex G. Hall
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation

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*Ohkay Owingeh
(Pueblo of San Juan)*

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Colleen F. Cawston
Colville Confederated Tribes

TREASURER
Alma Ransom
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Title: Support Transfer of Surplus D.O.D. Sites to Federally Recognized Tribes

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, it is the policy of the Department of Defense to respect the government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes and to consult with and consider the needs of tribes; and

WHEREAS, some surplus Department of Defense sites are on land traditionally used and occupied by native tribes and return of those lands will benefit tribal self reliance; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army has owned and operated a bulk fuel storage tank farm on the traditional village site of the Chilkoot Indian Association, called Tanani, and the contamination resulting from the facility has affected the ability of tribal members to participate in customary food gathering practices and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Chilkoot Indian Association has requested the Department of Defense to restore this land to a condition suitable for the Chilkoot Indian Association to assume ownership, for no other people have a greater interest and need in this land than Chilkoot Tribal people.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline L. Johnson
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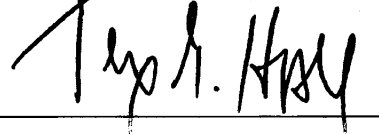
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby express support of the return of surplus lands that are traditional cultural sites to be transferred back to federally recognized tribes by the Department of Defense, in a condition safe for habitation and traditional usage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates to NCAI support the Chilkoot Indian Association in its efforts to receive their traditional homeland of Tanani Point back from the Department of Defense US Army; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the 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.