

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS**

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-083

**Title: Supporting Legislation to Transfer Certain Public Domain Lands to
the Pueblos of Santa Clara and San Ildefonso in New Mexico**

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, 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

the Pueblos of Santa Clara and San Ildefonso have requested the United States to hold certain lands in trust which are now administered by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and which the BLM has identified for disposal; and

the lands addressed in the proposed legislation are part of the aboriginal lands of each Pueblo, the aboriginal title to which the Indian Claims Commission determined has not been extinguished by the United States; and

the Pueblos of Santa Clara and San Ildefonso are in full agreement about the location of the boundary between their aboriginal lands in this BLM tract, as evidenced by an agreement entered into by the two Pueblos on December 20, 2000, and are working jointly to secure enactment of this legislation; and

the lands described in the proposed legislation are not accessible by public road, and share boundaries with the current lands of the two Pueblos; and

the BLM is on record as supporting the transfer of the aboriginal portions the lands described in the proposed legislation to the two Pueblos, respectively; and

the two Pueblos have requested official support for the proposed legislation;
and

NCAI wishes to support this request by the two Pueblos.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

4,484 acres, situated within Section 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, and 35, Township 20N, Range 7E, and Section 19 and 30, Township 20N, Range 8E to be declared by the United States in trust for the Pueblos of Santa Clara and San Ildefonso, respectively; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI congratulates the Rio Arriba County Commission, the Santa Fe County Commission and the Los Alamos County Council for adopting resolutions supporting proposed legislation to transfer these lands to the two Pueblos to be held in trust by the United States for the Pueblos of Santa Clara and San Ildefonso, respectively, and urges the State of New Mexico, its other political subdivisions, and its citizens to support such proposed legislation; and

that the NCAI urges all members of the United States Congress and President George W. Bush to support proposed legislation to transfer these lands to the two Pueblos to be held in trust by the United States for the Pueblos of Santa Clara and San Ildefonso, respectively; and

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 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.