

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS**

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-086

Title: Support in Opposition of the Presidential Nomination of Ms. Rebecca Watson as Assistant Interior Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Bureau of Land Management

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

WHEREAS, the Pauma Tribe is federally recognized Tribe recognized by the United States as having the sovereign powers invested in a Tribal Government; and

WHEREAS, President Bush is considering the nomination of Ms Rebecca Watson, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Land and Minerals Management; and

WHEREAS, the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Land and Minerals Management oversees the Bureau of Land Management, the Minerals Management Service and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement which oversees a combined budget of nearly \$1.8 billion and more than 12,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, the BLM manages 264 million acres of public lands, much of it on Aboriginal homeland and outside reservation across the West; and

WHEREAS, the Minerals Management Service oversees the nation's natural gas, oil and other energy resources on the outer continental shelf and collects more than \$5 billion a year in revenues from mineral leases on federal and tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Surface Mining works with states and tribes to reclaim coal mining sites and ensure that new mines operate in a responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Watson has a long history of fighting Indian religious rights, affirmative action laws, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, public access issues and an array of federal wildlife protection statues; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI agrees with the Tribe's position that the nomination by President Bush and appointment by the U.S. Congress would be detrimental tot he Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI recognizes that the appointment of Ms. Watson will not be in the best interest of the Tribes of the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby strongly support, without exception, the Tribe's positions in the nomination and appointment of Ms. Watson to the position of Assistant Secretary of Land and Mineral Management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI urges President Bush's decision to nominate Ms Watson be revoked and consult with the Tribal Government on an acceptable candidate; 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 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.