

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS**

**RESOLUTION #SPO-01-089**

**Title: Establishment of a Tribal Trust Reform Task Force**

**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 federal government has an on-going trust responsibility and obligation to Indian tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 16, 2001, the Department of Interior announced plans to create a new agency, the Bureau of Indian Trust Assets Management (BIATM); and

**WHEREAS**, this plan would strip the Bureau of Indian Affairs of its trust management responsibility and transfer those duties to the BIATM; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes and tribal organizations were not consulted prior to the announcement of this plan to establish a separate BIATM and that the planned timelines for proceeding with this plan are far too short to allow for meaningful consultation with tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Interior has concurred that consultation with tribes will occur regarding this proposal prior to any implementation of this plan.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby will establish a Tribal Trust Reform Task Force to assist in the coordination and collaboration regarding consultation on this plan as well as the development of specific recommendations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Tribal Trust Reform Task Force will be Co-Chaired by Susan Masten, NCAI President and Chairperson, Yurok Tribe and will consist of at least two tribal representative from each region. Meetings of the Task Force are to remain open for all tribal leaders and representatives. The Task Force will also coordinate among all tribal organizations interested in trust management and reform issues; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that resources to fund this Task Force would be sought from the Administration; 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 58<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Tex Hall, President

**ATTEST:**

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Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.