

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS**

**RESOLUTION #SPO-01-097**

**Title: A Resolution Requesting the United States Congress to Support the  
Housing Improvement Program Under the Bureau of Indian Affairs  
and Appropriate \$33 Million for FY2003**

**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 stated purpose of the organization is to promote advocacy for policy and legislative changes that will favorably impact our primary goals of providing safe, decent and affordable housing for Indian people in a manner recognizing the unique government-to-government relationship for tribes and the federal government; and

**WHEREAS**, Bureau of Indian Affairs. U.S. Department of the Interior continues its paternalistic approach to award Housing Improvement Program funds to Indian tribes including penalizing Indian tribes if Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program funds are cost-shared; and with other federal housing funds; and

funding is inadequate under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 to additionally meet the Indian housing needs targeted by the BIA Housing Improvement Program; and

the National American Indian Housing Council has studied and projected that the BIA Housing Improvement Program funding need is about \$33 million.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

Executive Order 1375 to meet with Indian tribes to amend federal regulations and develop a funding methodology for the BIA Housing Improvement Program, which would allow for the combining of funds with other federal agencies; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that the NCAI does hereby request that the U. S. Congress appropriate at a minimum \$33 million for FY2002 for the BIA Housing Improvement Program.

**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.