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THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SD-02-073

Title: Immediate Recruitment for Native American Director Position of the Office of Native American Business Development in the Department of Commerce

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 and their way of life, 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 Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Program created within the Department of Commerce the Office of Native American Business Development, to provide coordination and assistance to Native Americans in the areas of business development and trade promotion; and

WHEREAS, the bill creating the Office of Native American Business Development ("Office") in the Department of Commerce included in the findings section the fact that the capacity of Indian tribes to build strong tribal governments and economies is hindered by their inability to engage communities that surround Indian lands and outside investors in economic activities on Indian lands. For that and other reasons, the bill states that the United States has an obligation to assist Indian tribes with the creation of appropriate economic and political conditions with respect to Indian lands, specifically in the areas of

investment from outside sources that do not originate with the tribes, and economic ventures with outside entities that are not tribal entities; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Office is to ensure the coordination of federal programs that provide assistance (including financial and technical assistance) for increased business, the expansion of trade by eligible entities, and economic development on Indian lands to Indian tribes, tribal organizations and enterprises, Indian-owned businesses, Indian arts and crafts organizations, and marketing cooperatives;

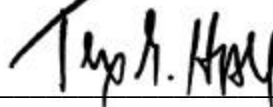
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the creation of the Office and any funding requests by the Department of Commerce and other federal agencies dedicated to furthering the objectives and activities of the Office for the benefit of tribal enterprise and economic development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI urges the Department of Commerce to immediately recruit Native American applicants from Indian Country for the Directorship of this most important position; 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 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002 with a quorum present.



Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002.