



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-005

Title: A Resolution for Congressional Support and Approval Of the Indian Small Water Projects Act to be Administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for Water Projects on Tribal Lands with Total Costs Below \$25 Million Dollars.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Susan Masten
Yurok Tribe

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam

RECORDING SECRETARY
Juana Majel
Pauma-Yuima

TREASURER
Ernie Stevens, Jr.
Oneida of Wisconsin

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

ABERDEEN
Tom Ranfranz
Flandreau Santee Sioux

ALBUQUERQUE
Joe A. Garcia
San Juan Pueblo

ANADARKO
Merle Boyd
Sac & Fox Nation of OK

BILLINGS
Jonathan Windy Boy
Chippewa Cree Tribe
of Rocky Boy

JUNEAU
Mike Williams
Yup'ik

MINNEAPOLIS
Bernida Churchill
Mille Lacs Band
of Ojibwe

MUSKOGEE
S. Diane Kelly
Cherokee Nation

NORTHEAST
Alma Ransom
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

PHOENIX
A. Brian Wallace
Washoe Tribe of NV/CA

PORTLAND
Ernie L. Stensgar
Couer d'Alene Tribe

SACRAMENTO
Mervin E. Hess
Lone Pine Paiute-
Shoshone Tribe

SOUTHEAST
A. Bruce Jones
Lumbee

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1301 Connecticut Ave., NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

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 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, largest, and most representative national American Indian and Alaska Native tribal government organization; and

WHEREAS, among the most strongly held obligations in Indian Country are those which assure that lands and waters are preserved for the ones who will come in seven generations; and

WHEREAS, sovereignty over Indian Country and the exercise of jurisdiction on environmental matters is critical to preserving the health and well being of tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation maintains trust responsibilities with American Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation provides assistance to Tribes for water resource management and development; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's present system to assist Indian Tribes requires Congressional Review and Approval of each project at every development stage beyond the initial needs study, thus delaying progress on water management projects on tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has completed numerous general investigations of water resource projects; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is required to receive Congressional authorization for each individual project to further develop and construct water resource projects on Indian Lands; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes recognize and accept their roles in providing clean, safe water for consumption, recreation, and agriculture to tribal members and non-tribal residents for their reservations; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for legislation to provide the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, with authority to conduct feasibility investigations and construct small water projects for the benefit of Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, draft legislation or similar legislation to achieve this result to be known as the "Indian Small Water Projects Act of 2001" has been considered by the NCAI in its mid-year session; and

WHEREAS, the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition, Inc., representing 27 Tribes within the Missouri River Basin, and the All Indian Pueblo Council, representing 19 Pueblos in New Mexico have adopted resolutions of support for this legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes have identified their water resource issues and concerns and have developed partnerships with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition's request that the U.S. Congress authorize the Indian Small Water Projects Act to address water resource needs on tribal lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition's request that the U.S. Congress provide appropriations in the amount of \$750,000,000 necessary to fully implement the Indian Small Water Projects Act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution to provide the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, with authority to conduct feasibility investigations and construct small water projects for the benefit of Indian Tribes.

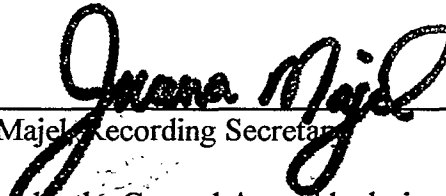
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001, with a quorum present.



Susan Masten, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majek, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2001 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Mashantucket, Connecticut on May 13-16, 2001.