



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-015

Title: Supporting Budget Cap Adjustments for Indian Land and Water Settlement Funding

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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, the All Indian Pueblo Council, consisting of the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico, believes that the settlement of Indian land and water claims is one of the most important aspects of the United States trust obligation to Indians and is of vital importance to the country as a whole; and

WHEREAS, under current federal budgetary policy, funding of Indian land and water settlements is subject to the federal budget caps, with the usual result that no settlement can be funded without a corresponding reduction in the Bureau of Indian Affairs budget or another part of the Interior Department budget; and

WHEREAS, the practical effect of this budgetary policy is to preclude the negotiation and settlement of Indian land and water claims, as demonstrated by the fact that there were no Indian water rights settlements approved from 1992 until the end of the last Congress; and

WHEREAS, several Pueblos are involved in resolving their water and land rights through litigation or negotiation which at some point may require federal funding to implement settlements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the legislative proposal submitted by U.S. Senator Domenici which would adjust the federal budget for Indian land and water settlement funding; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution and strongly urges the Bush Administration, U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, U.S. Representative Tom Udall, U.S. Representative Joe Skeen, U.S. Representative Heather Wilson, and other members of Congress to support this effort by enacting legislation that will adjust the federal budget for Indian land and water settlement funding.

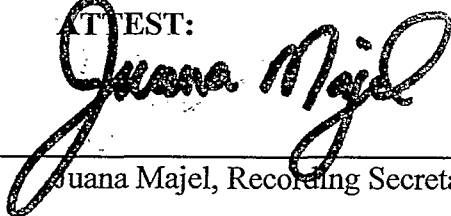
CERTIFICATION

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 Majel, 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.