



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-034

Title: A Resolution Urging the Department of Interior (DOI) and the National Indian Gaming Commission to Move Forward with all Pending Fee to Trust and Status of Indian Land Decisions

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, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has the authority pursuant to the treaties and statutes of the United States to take lands into trust for the purpose of consolidating Indian lands within and contiguous to existing reservations and as a matter of establishing initial reservations for newly recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior had decided that it will not move forward with any pending tribal fee to trust acquisitions while a review is in progress of the amendments made to 25 CFR 151 by the previous administration and DOI has asked the NIGC not to move forward with any decisions regarding whether tribal lands qualify as "Indian lands" under the IGRA and the NIGC Chairman has complied with that request; and

WHEREAS, the unofficial moratorium placed upon fee to trust acquisitions and upon Indian lands decisions will result in immediate, grave economic harm to some tribes and to significant long-term economic and governmental harm to others.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution and urges the Department of Interior and the National Indian Gaming Commission to move forward with all pending fee to trust decisions and decisions regarding the status of Indian lands under the treaties, federal statutes, regulations, court judgments and settlement decrees.

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.