



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-045

Title: Continue USDA Farm Service Agency Outreach Program and Funding

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 USDA Civil Rights Action Team report has detailed the fact that minorities in general have not afforded and equal opportunity to access USDA loan programs; and

WHEREAS, American Indians, the largest minority land owners in the U.S. have fared worst among all minorities as potential USDA borrowers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agricultural, through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), created a credit outreach and services program to directly address these problems; and

WHEREAS, this has been a successful program, providing knowledge and assistance to minority farmers and ranchers generally, and specifically to American Indian farmers and ranchers; and

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, the FSA Ag. Credit Outreach Program has, for a number of years, provided important outreach services to American Indian tribes and individual Indian farmers and ranchers through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Agriculture to provide such outreach services; and

WHEREAS, for the fiscal year 2001, the FSA has not finalized the cooperative agreement guaranteeing its participation in this program, thus resulting in a significant reduction in funding available to the Land Grant Colleges and the USDA's Outreach Program generally; and

WHEREAS, the USDA is implementing the Executive Order of President William J. Clinton, signed on October 21, 1996, directing all government agencies to meet the needs of tribally controlled college funding; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the FSA Ag Credit Outreach to become a national program available to all recognized American Indian tribes in the U.S.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby demand the Secretary of Agriculture to continue appropriate levels of funding for the FSA/USDA Agriculture Credit Outreach Program to American Indian tribes and individual Indian farmers and ranchers on the seven Indian reservations in the State of Montana.

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 Major, 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.