



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

### RESOLUTION #MSH-01-046

#### **Title: Supporting the Congressional Funding Request Under 25 U.S.C. §3503(a) of the Indian Energy Resources Act, as Amended for the Development of a High-Voltage Transmission Line, and Power Generation Facilities and Related Infrastructure by the Diné Power Authority in the Southwest United States**

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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 Diné Power Authority (DPA) is an authority and enterprise of the Navajo Nation organized to conduct development and operation of high voltage transmission lines, related facilities, switch yards, substations, electric generation production, renewable energy research and development and related power and energy development necessary to vertically and horizontally integrate the Navajo Nation's power, utility and resource infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, DPA, through its Board of Directors, has pursued the development of a 462-mile transmission line from the Four Corners area to southern Nevada, and has completed the final environmental impact statement and obtained a record of decision from the federal government, and obtained a certificate of environmental compatibility from the state of Arizona; and

**WHEREAS**, DPA has announced plans to develop the Diné Power Generation Project (DPGP), a large scale, natural gas-fueled, electric generating facility to produce electricity to serve the electrical needs throughout the Navajo Nation and the Southwest; and

**WHEREAS**, under 25 U.S.C. §3503(a) of the Indian Energy Resources Act, as amended, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Interior, shall establish and implement a demonstration program to assist Indian tribes in pursuing energy self-sufficiency and to promote the development of a vertically integrated energy industry on Indian reservations, in order to increase development of the substantial energy resources located on such Indian reservations; and

**WHEREAS**, under this act, the Secretary shall provide development grants to assist tribes in obtaining technical capability in energy development, and for vertical integration projects involving solar and wind energy, refineries, generation and transmission of electricity, hydroelectricity, cogeneration, natural gas distribution, and clean, innovative uses of coal; and

**WHEREAS**, DPA has pursued a right-of way and is ready to implement the transmission project, and has identified land, water and fuel resources for a power plant, and it now needs a Congressional appropriation to complete final environmental and engineering work for the transmission line and initiate new environmental, air and water quality studies and cover related costs for development of a new power plant; and

**WHEREAS**, DPA's transmission and power generation projects will help national, regional and local interests solve some of the energy shortage situations, and that it is in the best interests of the United States and the Navajo Nation to request Congressional appropriation under U.S.C. §3503(a) pursuant to the attached budget "Exhibit A", to carry out the desired results.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support the Congressional funding request under U.S.C. §3503(a) by the Diné Power Authority for its high voltage transmission and power generation projects for the benefit of national, regional and local electrical interests of the Navajo Nation and the southwest United States; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution for the development of the Navajo transmission and power generation projects for infrastructure, employment, financial investment and related benefits to all parties concerned.

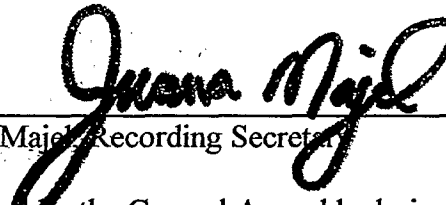
**CERTIFICATION**

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:**

  
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Juana Maje, 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.