



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #MSH-01-056

Title: Recommending that the Bush Administration Adjust the Timetable for Elimination of the School Construction Backlog, as Stated in His Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Blueprint, from Six Years to Four Years

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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 School Construction backlog for Bureau of Indian Affairs is \$923 million and has been at that level for a decade; and

WHEREAS, there are 187 BIA schools in need of repair, renovation, or new school construction; and

WHEREAS, President Bush, in his presidential campaign, promised to eliminate the \$923 million school construction backlog in the BIA school system; and

WHEREAS, on average only six schools per year are built on a waiting list of 100 schools; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is responsible for only two school systems in the country: the Department of Defense school system and the Bureau of Indian Affairs school system; and

WHEREAS, President Bush released his fiscal year 2002 budget blueprint and recommended elimination of the school construction backlog in six years; and

WHEREAS, President Bush's term is not guaranteed beyond four years and the emergency nature of the educational facilities our Indian children learn in are often faced with health and safety concerns.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the elimination of the school construction backlog within Indian communities during President Bush's current four year term of office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports the nature of the government to government relationship between Indian nations and the federal government; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution on behalf of the 600,000 American Indian students in K-12 programs and specifically, the 50,000 Indian students attending BIA schools.

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.