



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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RESOLUTION #MSH-01-059

Title: Small Business Administration Pilot Project for Outreach and Technical Assistance to American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Women Business Owners and Entrepreneurs

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, historically, American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians have endured great economic and social inequities; and

WHEREAS, historically, the great potential of small and community businesses on or near Indian reservations and on Indian lands, Alaskan Villages, and Native Hawaiian communities for further economic development has not been fully realized; and

WHEREAS, the passage of welfare reform legislation creates additional urgent incentives for the continued creation of jobs and highlights the need for sustainable economic development on or near Indian reservations, Indian lands, Alaskan Villages and Native Hawaiian Communities; and

WHEREAS, there is great potential for small business and micro enterprises to not only create jobs but also create a sense of purpose and value for the realization of Individual Indian Self and Family Determination; and

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WHEREAS, the identification, determined need, and demographic information is practically not existent as it pertains to American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian women business owners and entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, this lack of information and identification results in the omission of current training and technical assistance for business and entrepreneur development to this under served population; and

WHEREAS, there is no national organization that collects and provides data, outreach, training, and technical assistance services specifically to this population for business and entrepreneurial development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby urge the SBA, the United States Congress, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, to appropriate \$750,000 for funding the Small Business Administration Office of Women Owned Businesses for the purpose of providing a National American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Women Entrepreneur Outreach and Technical Assistance Pilot Project.

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.