



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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RESOLUTION #MSH-01-060

Title: SBA Economic/Business Development Training and Technical Assistance Funding for Tribal Business Information Centers

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, Indian Tribes and Nations have been recognized as separate political and economic entities; which has often led to great economic and social inequities for Tribes and their members; and

WHEREAS, historically, the great potential of Indian reservations for further economic development has not been fully realized; and

WHEREAS, the lack of economic development has lead to consistently high rates of unemployment and great hardship for Indian people on many reservations, with unemployment rates regularly exceeding 35% of all employable adults, many times the national average; 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 Indian reservations, since as welfare programs are ended, Indian people on the reservations will need quality employment opportunities; and

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WHEREAS, various programs have been enacted, such as the BIA economic development office, which allows businesses owned by Indian tribes and Indian individuals to take advantage of opportunities for business development; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has created Tribal Business Information Centers (TBIC) on Indian reservations in Montana, Washington, South Dakota and North Dakota providing incentives for business on reservations and providing business opportunities for Indian and Tribal owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, the SBA needs to fund TBIC on Indian reservations in Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oklahoma, and on Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution and urges the SBA, the United States Congress, and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to appropriate \$15 million for funding the Small Business Administration Office of Native American Affairs for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance, and for the development and expansion of TBIC's in New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oklahoma, and Navajo Nation reservation businesses.

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 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.