



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

### RESOLUTION #MSH-01-061

#### **Title: Office of Native American Business Development in the Department of Commerce**

**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**, on November 7, 2000 the President signed into law the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (S. 2719). This Act creates within the Department of Commerce an Office of Native American Business Development, which will provide coordination and assistance to Native Americans in the areas of business development and trade promotion; and

**WHEREAS**, S. 2719 based the creation of the **Office of Native American Business Development (“Office”)** in the Department of Commerce on the findings that the capacity of Indian tribes to build strong tribal governments and economies is hindered by their inability to engage communities that surround Indian lands and outside investors in economic activities on Indian lands. For that and other reasons, the bill states that the United States has an obligation to assist Indian tribes with the creation of appropriate economic and political conditions with respect to Indian lands, specifically in the areas of investment from outside sources that do not originate with the tribes; and **economic ventures** with outside entities that are not tribal entities; and

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#### NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Office of Native American Business Development is to ensure the coordination of Federal programs that provide assistance (including financial and technical assistance) for increased business, the expansion of trade by eligible entities, and economic development on Indian lands to Indian tribes, tribal organization and enterprises, Indian-owned businesses, Indian arts and crafts organization and marketing cooperatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the duties of the Office of Native American Business Development are focused on the coordination and/or provision of the following activities, according to the language of the act: interagency programs for economic development, a Native American export and trade promotion program, and a Native American tourism program (including grants for demonstration projects); and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Commerce supports the creation and activities of this office.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI shall advocate the creation of the Office of Native American Business Development and any funding requests by the Department of Commerce and other Federal agencies dedicated to furthering the objectives and activities of the Office for the benefit of tribal enterprise and economic development.

**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.