



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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### RESOLUTION #MSH-01-062

#### **Title: Department of Commerce's Five -Year Strategic Plan to Promote and Support Economic Self-Sufficiency for American Indians and Alaska Natives**

**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**, for over 35 years, the Department of Commerce has worked closely with American Indian and Alaska Native communities to fulfill its mission to promote job creation and improved living standards for all Americans through economic growth, technological competitiveness and sustainable development. The Department has provided a wide range of programs and services addressing nearly every priority area within tribal communities, including economic development, infrastructure, and natural resource management; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States is presently enjoying the longest period of sustained economic growth during a peacetime era, the challenge remains to ensure all citizens and communities are not left behind in the New Digital – and Global – Economy. Public-private partnerships are critical to meeting this challenge, and provide many opportunities for tribes and federal agencies to expand their government-to-government relationships into innovative efforts that can ensure the prosperity experienced by the rest of the country crosses into reservation boundaries; and

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Yurok Tribe

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Shoshone Tribe

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A. Bruce Jones  
Lumbee

NCAI HEADQUARTERS  
1301 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native communities have overcome many challenges to create sustainable economies, much work remains to be done: Native Americans still experience the highest poverty rates and the least developed infrastructure conditions in the United States today, e.g. figures show that less than half of Indian homes have telephones; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce recognizes the needs and opportunities Native Americans face as they meet the challenge of building strong and sustainable economies, it has submitted for consideration to the attending tribal leaders of the 2000 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians the following draft *Five-Year Strategic Plan to Promote and Support Economic Self-Sufficiency for American Indians and Alaska Natives* ("Strategic Plan").

This Strategic Plan is based upon a vision to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century government-to-government relationship between tribes and the Department of Commerce by promoting and supporting economic self-sufficiency for American Indians and Alaska Natives and will serve as a framework for the Department's relationship and partnership efforts with tribes. It builds upon the Department's American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, signed in 1995 by Secretary Ronald H. Brown, and is the result of ongoing collaborative efforts between the Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs in the Office of the secretary and all the Department's bureaus, as represented by the Native American Affairs Working Group.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution for the thorough consideration and consultation process regarding the Department of Commerce's *Five-Year Strategic Plan to Promote and Support Economic Self-Sufficiency for American Indians and Alaska Natives*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the implementation of the final version of Strategic Plan, which will have incorporated input from tribal leaders and final clearance by the Secretary of Commerce; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution and the efforts of the Department of Commerce to fulfill its government-to-government relationship with tribal nations through the Department's American Indian and Alaska Native Policy signed in 1995, and the implementation of the Department's *Five-Year Strategic Plan to Promote and Support Economic Self-Sufficiency for American Indians and Alaska Natives*.

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 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.