



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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### RESOLUTION #MSH-01-070

### **Title: Support for \$1 Billion to be Appropriated in Fiscal 2003 for Economic Development Efforts Among the Tribal Nations**

**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**, many Tribes across the United States have failed to take advantage of the recent expansion in the U.S. economy and continue to suffer from unemployment rates in excess of 50%; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the principal barriers to economic expansion among the Tribal Nations has been the lack of access to capital, including venture capital, even though the authority for the guaranteed loan program of the BIA is often not entirely used; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal/BIA Budget Task Force working on the formation of the FY2003 budget recently concluded its meetings on May 8-9, 2001, and recommended an increase of nearly \$1 billion in economic development funds be appropriated by Congress for Tribal Nations and Native Americans, in areas ranging from direct loans, venture capital, business development centers at the regional and local levels, infrastructure grants for improvements to telecommunications, tribal courts and tribal codes and technical assistance for economic development for tribes and for individuals.

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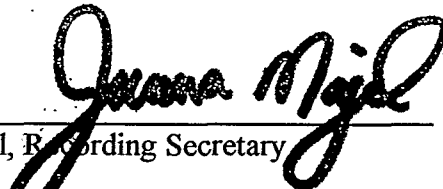
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support the recommendation of the Tribal/BIA Budget Task Force that an additional \$1 billion be appropriated in FY 2003 as a part of the BIA budget to develop regional and local economic development centers for Tribal Nations and their members, to provide technical assistance, grants, direct loans, guaranteed loans, and infrastructure grants, loans for tribal courts and to improve tribal codes, as stated in the attached recommendations.

**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.