

**Resolution of the BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council
Approving the Budget Format as Proposed by the BIA**

WHEREAS, the BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council was established in 1999 to facilitate tribal government participation in the planning of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) budget and includes two tribal representatives from each of the 12 BIA regions; and

WHEREAS, at the November 18, 2004 BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council meeting the BIA presented a proposed format of the FY 2006 budget that was to be presented to Congress, a format which had not received any tribal review or input; and

WHEREAS, at its November 18, 2004 meeting, the BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council took formal action adopting a resolution opposing the proposed budget format; and

WHEREAS, at the May 11, 2005 meeting the BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council established a Budget Subcommittee to work with the BIA on the FY 2007 proposed budget and the budget format; and

WHEREAS, Congress rejected the BIA's proposed budget format and directed the BIA to "Consult with Tribal leaders on an alternative budget format that is:

1. aligned programmatically,
2. provides full transparency for Tribal priority allocations funding,
3. increases accountability for Bureau programs and program manages, and
4. clearly delineates funding levels of the central and regional offices."

; and

WHEREAS, a new draft budget format was presented to the Budget Subcommittee at their May 24, 2005 meeting; and

WHEREAS, after receiving comments, follow-up revisions were provided to the Subcommittee members on July 5, 2005; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2005 the Budget Subcommittee met with Ms. Mary Jane Miller to review an updated draft of the budget format. The Subcommittee agreed that this proposed structure met the conditions imposed by Congress and addressed the tribal concerns regarding protection of the TPA and transparency issues and voted to recommend approval of this format budget to the full BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council, even though there were concerns regarding the improvement of program justifications in future budget cycle submissions to the Department; and

WHEREAS, at the September 20, 2005 meeting Ms. Miller and Mr. Cason agreed that the BIA budget document that is presented to Congress should be an evolving document and to accept tribal input into the development of the program description contained in the document; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget format was presented at the FY 2005 Self-Governance Fall Conference, at which time no objections were raised.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council rescinds its November 18, 2004 resolution opposing the proposed budget format and approves the new proposed budget format for presentation to Congress as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council expects the BIA to continue to coordinate, collaborate, and consult with the Budget Subcommittee and the full Council to further improve the budget structure and presentation to Congress to better inform them about the conditions and program operations being carried out in Indian Country.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council at Pala Casino Spa Resort in Pala California on November 30, 2005 with a quorum present.

James Cason, Co-Chair
BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council

Tex G. Hall, Co-Chair
BIA/Tribal Budget Advisory Council