



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

**The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #ABQ-19-060**

TITLE: Supporting the Designation of Additional Tribal Promise Zones

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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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and 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 and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma was named as the first ever tribal Promise Zone in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Thunder Valley Promise Zone, Pride of the Great Plains Promise Zone, and Spokane Tribe of Indians Promise Zone have since been designated as tribal Promise Zones to support and empower their communities through this initiative; and

WHEREAS, Section 12510 of P.L. 115-334, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, commonly referred to as the 2018 Farm Bill, calls for the designation of additional tribal Promise Zones; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Farm Bill requires these additional tribal Promise Zones to be designated by the Secretary of Agriculture within one year of the enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (December 20, 2018); and

WHEREAS, the one-year anniversary of the enactment of the 2018 Farm Bill is rapidly approaching and the Department of Agriculture has not yet publicly announced progress in these steps to designate additional tribal Promise Zones; and

WHEREAS, the nomination of additional tribal Promise Zones in Indian Country can and will help establish private-public partnerships and ensure investment in some of the most underserved areas in Indian Country.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) hereby supports the designation of additional promise zones; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI hereby requests the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to begin the government to government consultation process, policy development, application process, and designation process to name additional promise zones; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, October 20-25, 2019, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary