Comments:
This resolution would direct NCAI to use the term “Native Sovereign Nation” when referring to Indian Nations and Tribes.

As noted in the proposed Resolution, “Native Sovereign Nation” is a term used by some Tribal Nations. Formally, it is term defined to mean a federally recognized tribe (41 C.F.R. § 102-173.24).

Article II, Section B(1)(a) of the NCAI Constitution states that one of the requirements for Tribal membership in the organization is that a Tribe “be recognized as a tribe, or other identifiable group of American Indians by…a State.” NCAI uses the term “Tribal Nation” to recognize the range of tribal members. It also uses the terms “Indian tribe,” “Indian,” “Native American” when referencing definitions found in statutes and regulations, for example.

Recommendations:

This Resolution is out of order because it would direct NCAI to violate its Constitution and while it is national in scope, it is not emergency in nature and therefore does not meet the requirements of resolutions submitted to NCAI for consideration during a Mid-Year Convention (NCAI Standing Rules of Order, Section XIII(f)).

Therefore, the Resolutions Committee recommends that this resolution be tabled and considered at the NCAI 2021 Annual Convention and Marketplace.

Sponsor a member in good standing (yes/no)?: __Y___
TITLE: Retiring the term Native American

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, in our original Native languages, many nations are referred to as the original People or the People of the Place; and

Whereas, the term “Indian” is a generic term developed in foreign languages for indigenous People; and

Whereas, the term “Indian tribe” is a foreign term, which is limited and in recent years, the term “tribal” is used in the media to mean “divisive” in regard to politics; and

Whereas, the term Native Americans is becoming more popular than American Indian in modern American parlance; and

Whereas, Indian nations and tribes have come to use the term “nsn” in internet addresses, meaning Native Sovereign Nations; and

Whereas, the Rick Santorum episode illustrated the ignorance of some of the American public towards Native Americans.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) shall use the term Native Sovereign Nation when referring to Indian nations and tribes; and
BE IT FURTHER 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 2021 Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held June 20, 2021 - June 24, 2021, with a quorum present.

______________________________
Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:

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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary