Resolutions Committee Recommendation
Resolution #: AK-21-012
Title: Support For Legislation Authorizing Small Business Administration Office Of Native American Affairs

Comments:
This resolution requests that NCAI supports enactment of the SBA’s “ONAA Enhancement Act of 2021” to formally establish and staff an Office of Native American Affairs to deliver funding resources for small business assistance to Indian Country.

Recommendations:
The Resolutions Committee recommends tabling this resolution as NCAI has already endorsed and supported this request and legislation.

NCAI will continue to support similar legislation under Resolution #PDX-20-054, Approval of the NCAI Transition Plan for the Presidential Transition Effort Following the November 2020 Elections.

Sponsor a member in good standing (yes/no)?: _Y___
The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #AK-21-012

TITLE: Support For Legislation Authorizing Small Business Administration
Office Of Native American Affairs

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, Senators John Hickenlooper (D-CO) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) introduced the bipartisan bill, S. 1735, the Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) Enhancement Act of 2021, to codify and formally authorize the ONAA within the Small Business Administration (SBA), and for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, as S. 1735 authorizes the ONAA its own budget of at least $5 million to staff and coordinate with other offices within SBA and key Cabinet-level Departments to direct federal resources in more targeted ways to Indian Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, Alaskan and Native Hawaiian communities, and native small businesses across the country; and

WHEREAS, S. 1735 properly charges the ONAA to direct SBA’s Native American Outreach activities to formulate and promote policies, programs and assistance that better address the entrepreneurial, capital access, business development and contracting needs of tribes and native businesses; and

WHEREAS, the bill is supported by the leading national organizations representing interests of American Indian and Alaskan Native Governments as evidenced by the joint letter to leaders of the United States Senate urging prompt passage.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI supports enactment of the SBA’s “ONAA Enhancement Act of 2021” to formally establish and staff an Office of Native American Affairs to deliver funding resources for small business assistance to Indian Country; 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.

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Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:

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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary