



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #AK-21-024

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TITLE: Calling For Government-To-Government Consultation Between Tribal Nations and The United States Regarding Protection Of Grey Wolves

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, Tribal Nations were independent sovereigns prior to the formation of the United States and through treaties, agreements, statutes and executive orders, Tribal Nations were offered the protection of the United States, guaranteed the sanctity of our homelands, and reserved our original inherent rights to tribal self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the original policy of the United States was to respect Tribal Nations as sovereigns, with inherent rights to self-government, liberty, and possession and control of our Indian lands and territory and to deal with Tribal Nations on a Nation-to-Nation basis founded on mutual respect, mutual consent, and deference to internal tribal self-governance; and

WHEREAS, this relationship necessitates that the United States consult with Tribal Nations on a government-to-government basis whenever Federal activities have tribal impacts or the potential to impact tribal interests and seeking mutually agreed upon courses of action whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, effective and meaningful consultation is the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of Tribal Nations in regard to Federal activities with tribal impacts; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13175, setting forth a policy mandating executive agency consultation with Indian nations and tribes; and

WHEREAS, President Bush reaffirmed the Federal commitment to this policy in his September 23, 2004 memorandum; and

WHEREAS, President Obama reaffirmed the Federal commitment to this policy in his November 5, 2009 Memorandum, while also directing each agency head to submit a detailed plan of actions the agency will take to implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175; and

WHEREAS, President Obama's November 5, 2009 Memorandum was elevated to executive order status by Executive Order 13604, which mandated its implementation consistent with Executive Order 13175 and President Obama's November 5, 2009 Memorandum; and

WHEREAS, President Biden reaffirmed the Federal commitment to this policy in his January 26, 2021 Memorandum, which reaffirmed Executive Order 13175; and

WHEREAS, Grey Wolves had been protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1974; and

WHEREAS, Grey Wolves play an important role in the culture of many Tribal Nations, and that any attempt to remove Grey Wolves from protection under the Endangered Species Act would substantially impact such tribes and therefore would require tribal consultation; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service delisted Grey Wolves without first meaningfully consulting with Tribal Nations.

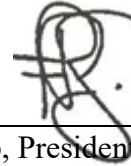
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) calls upon the President of the United States to direct his administration to consult with Tribal Nations to reconsider the delisting of the Grey Wolf as the previous administration failed its responsibility to meaningfully consult with Tribal Nations on a government-to-government basis prior to delisting the Grey Wolves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI calls upon the President to direct the administration to meaningfully consult with Tribal Nations on a government-to-government basis on all other issues regarding the Endangered Species Act which would have significant effects on Tribal Nations and their cultures: 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 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:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary