



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SPO-16-022

TITLE: Remove the “Urban Place” Limitation in USDA’s Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Brian Cladoosby
Swinomish Tribe

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Fawn Sharp
Quinault Indian Nation

RECORDING SECRETARY
Aaron Payment
*Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa
Indians of Michigan*

TREASURER
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

REGIONAL VICE- PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
Jerry Isaac
Native Village of Tanacross

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Joe Byrd
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Leander McDonald
Spirit Lake Nation

MIDWEST
Roger Rader
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

NORTHEAST
Lance Gumbs
Shinnecock Indian Nation

NORTHWEST
Mel Sheldon, Jr.
Tulalip Tribes

PACIFIC
Jack Potter, Jr.
Redding Rancheria

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Darrin Old Coyote
Crow Nation

SOUTHEAST
Larry Townsend
Lumbee Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Liana Onnen
Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation

SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

WESTERN
Bruce Ignacio
Ute Indian Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Pata
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

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, 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 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) program classifies an "Urban Place" as a town or a city with a population of 10,000 or more people; and

WHEREAS, tribal citizens who reside in urban areas can only be served in this program through a waiver process; and

WHEREAS, tribal citizens living in slightly larger communities and the metropolitan areas are excluded from receiving nutritious food through the FDPIR program due to the “urban place” definition; and

WHEREAS, tribal communities are growing and expanding due to increased economic development to include more tribal citizens from many tribal nations; and that there are thousands of tribal citizens who live in urban areas who are excluded from receiving nutritious and culturally relevant food supplies from the FDPIR program;

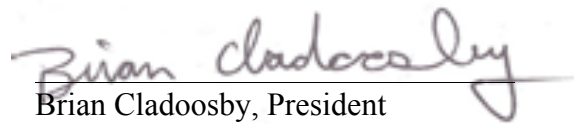
WHEREAS, the FDPIR, which is administered by over 270 tribes, is a vital program which provides feeding program services and food packages for the most food insecure tribal citizens and should be allowed to reach all tribal citizens in need.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCAI asks the U.S. Department of Agriculture to remove the “Urban Place” definition and limitation to a population of 10,000 people for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, allowing tribal nations and the USDA to work collaboratively to serve even more tribal citizens who need nutritious food, regardless of where they live.

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 2016 Midyear Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, June 27 to June 30, 2016, with a quorum present.


Brian Cladoosby, President

ATTEST:


Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary