



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SD-15-065

TITLE: Support for the Presidential Authorities to Declare National Monuments under the 1906 Antiquities Act

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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, 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 protection of the traditional cultural properties and sacred places of American Indian and Alaska Native people is paramount to each tribe's cultural preservation now and into the future; and

WHEREAS, the 1906 Antiquities Act allows the President of the United States to act in the national interest to designate national monuments to protect areas that have cultural, historical, and environmental significance; and

WHEREAS, there are many sites of vital importance to Native peoples' identity and history; and

WHEREAS, these ancestral sites are under constant threat of grave digging, cultural vandalism, looting of cultural sites, indiscriminate vehicle use that damages sacred areas, development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to traditional practices; and

WHEREAS, the designation of national monuments will provide additional protections for these cultural, historical, and environmentally significant lands; and

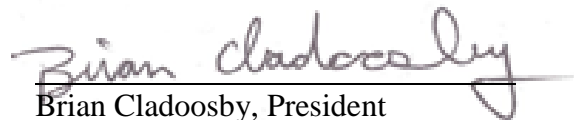
WHEREAS, there have been many threats to the Presidential authority to declare national monuments by efforts in Congress to undermine, weaken, or destroy these authorities through legislative means.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports the authority of the President of the United States to designate national monuments to protect significant historic, cultural, and environmental areas under the 1906 Antiquities Act; 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 2015 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Resort, San Diego, CA, October 18-23, 2015, with a quorum present.


Brian Cladoosby, President

ATTEST:


Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary