

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #ABQ-10-006



TITLE: Urging Congress to Urgently Support and Fund Native American Broadcast Services and Facilities and Media Outlets

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 purpose of Native owned and operated media and broadcast facilities is to promote healthy, engaged and independent Native Communities by strengthening tribal identities through the preservation of language and culture, securing spectrum, expanding Native media ownership and local media diversity, and promoting Native content production; and

WHEREAS, the Communication and Telecommunication interests of the American Indian tribes, Alaska Native Villages and Native Hawaiians as well as the many Native Communities outside of tribal lands remain among the most unserved and underserved and therefore must remain a national priority; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) was established by the Communications Act of 1967 providing meaningful financial support for qualified television and radio stations that are already on the air; and

WHEREAS, the Communications Act states that the CPB is authorized to facilitate the full development of communications of which programs of high quality, diversity, creativity, excellence and innovation are obtained by diverse sources to be made available to public telecommunications entities; and

WHEREAS, the media assets of Native America, including the 34 native-owned public radio stations currently serving tribal communities across thirteen states, the 38 tribal stations in development and other broadcast affiliates of Native Public Media, Koahnic Broadcast Corporation, and Native Voice One serve Indian Country through the adoption of policies, programs and services that improve the ability of Native people to create our own stories, vital news and public affairs programming, and entertainment via radio stations and other emerging technologies; and

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Juana Majel Dixon
Pauma Band – Mission Indians

RECORDING SECRETARY
Matthew Wesaw
Pokagon Band of Potawatomie

TREASURER
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
William Martin
Central Council Tlingit & Haida

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Cara Cowan Watts
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Patricia "Patti" Douville
Rosebud Sioux Tribe

MIDWEST
Marge Anderson
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

NORTHEAST
Lance Gumbs
Shinnecock Indian Nation

NORTHWEST
Brian Cladoosby
Swinomish Tribal Community

PACIFIC
Don Arnold
Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Scott Russell
Crow Tribe

SOUTHEAST
Larry Townsend
Lumbee Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Robert Teppeconnic
Comanche Nation

SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh

WESTERN
Irene Cuch
Ute Indian Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson Pata
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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

WHEREAS, the federal government of the United States has a trust responsibility to the 565 Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages to insure that they receive equal access to broadcast facilities and services as other American communities; and

WHEREAS, Congress should consider additional annual funding for the CPB to fully support Native media, including technical support, digital literacy, training, producing, and station and services; and

WHEREAS, NCAI, at its midyear conference urged Congress to restore funding to the PTFP program on an urgent and emergency basis and also urged the Obama administration to support critical annual appropriations for the PTFP program; and

WHEREAS, despite a strong national record of established programs and services in electronic media, television and radio serving Native Americans in the United States, the need for communications infrastructure in Indian Country remains high and critical to the nation building efforts of tribes; and

WHEREAS, the media interests of Native Americans must continually be represented at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Congress, and federal agencies including the Federal Communications Commission and National Telecommunications Information Administration on issues of localism, opportunities to participate in funding, and thoughtful and deliberate rulemaking in order to forward comprehensive solutions that will increase women and Native American access to, ownership and maintenance of broadcast facilities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government has the opportunity to enact policies that would greatly improve the ability of Native Americans to access, control and secure both traditional and new media.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby strongly supports the interests of Native Americans to own, operate, access and control media facilities and platforms in order to build strong, healthy, robust and local information ecologies for tribal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby strongly urge the congress to support providing vital infrastructure and media services to Native American communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and its tribal priority to assist tribal and native communities to create and produce programming and content, provide digital and media training and services, and to adopt the applications of advanced technology in bridging the digital and media divide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Department of Commerce, and Congress must provide sufficient funding annually for the native media system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI urges Congress to support and increase the annual appropriations of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Department of Commerce's Public Telecommunications Facilities Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI urges Congress, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the FCC, and other federal agencies to support media and telecommunications matters that advance tribal interests, in building media and telecommunications capacity among Native Americans, and support the funding of media programs and services that are central and critical to improving the cultural, social, political, economic and educational situation throughout Indian Country; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

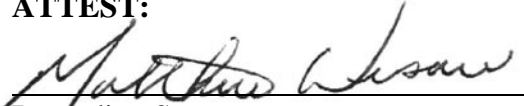
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary