



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #MOH-04-007

TITLE: Support For Senate Bill 2218—The Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2004, to Provide a Clean, Safe, Affordable, and Reliable Water Supply to Rural Residents and Tribal Communities

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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 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation maintains trust responsibilities with American Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for domestic water supplies on Indian reservations and Indian communities; and

WHEREAS, Indian Tribes have identified water quality and adequate water supplies as major environmental issues confronting tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, American Indian Tribes are experiencing a housing shortage due to the lack of adequate water supplies; and

WHEREAS, Tribes have been hindered in economic development opportunities due to the lack of water treatment and distribution infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Fourteen (14) Tribes in the Northern Plains region have completed water resource needs assessments; and

WHEREAS, Tribal populations are increasing due to high birth rates and migration to the reservations; and

WHEREAS, the Senate has received S. 2218—The Reclamation Rural Water Act of 2004, which presents a comprehensive approach to increasing or enhancing rural water supplies for tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the current authorized appropriation for the appraisal and feasibility studies is capped at \$70 million; and

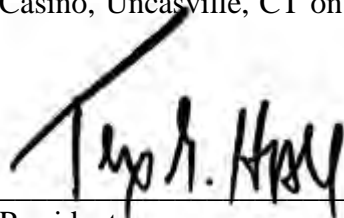
WHEREAS, a survey of 19 tribal projects concluded that the needs assessment far exceeds \$70 million and could utilize the total current amount requested.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request the U.S. Senate approve S. 2218—The Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2004, to address the water supply needs of tribal communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI supports an authorization and appropriations of not less than \$80,000,000 per year for the appraisal and feasibility studies, and out of that amount a set-aside of \$10,000,000 for additional national tribal needs assessments.

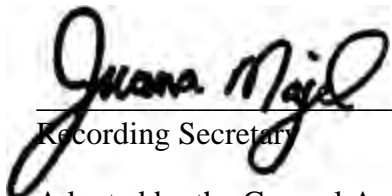
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2004 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Mohegan Sun Hotel and Casino, Uncasville, CT on June 23, 2004 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2004 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Mohegan Sun Hotel and Casino, in Uncasville, CT on June 23, 2004.