



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-03-030

TITLE: Completion of the Plum Creek Reservoir - Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas

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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, in 1998, the United States Congress approved the Upper Delaware River and Tributaries Watershed plan (Watershed plan) a cooperative agreement between the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, local and federal agencies to jointly develop the entire Delaware River watershed located in Northeast Kansas; and

WHEREAS, to ensure congressional approval, the Kickapoo Tribe sought and received \$148,000 in Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funding to complete planning activities for all projects within the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed plan contains the Plum Creek Reservoir, a project designed provide a reliable long-term water supply to meet the present and future needs of the reservation and allow the Kickapoo Tribe to develop its infrastructure, to aid in the economic, social, and overall development of the Kickapoo reservation and to improve the quality of life of the Kickapoo people; and

WHEREAS, the Kickapoo Tribe has been denied the Plum Creek Reservoir due to ever increasing regulatory and legal obstructions, a form of programmatic discrimination that operates directly in conflict with the federal trust relationship and the legal and jurisdictional barriers that Tribes must deal with in any assertion of tribal sovereignty or tribal self-determination; and

WHEREAS, the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas now seeks the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to meet their fiduciary duty and complete the Plum Creek Reservoir, to provide a reliable and long-term water supply and allow the Kickapoo Tribe to develop its reservation and improve the quality of life of its people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby request the Departments of the Interior (DOI) and Agriculture (USDA) to take the necessary steps and fulfill the federal trust responsibility, and give all necessary assistance and aid to the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas in completing the Plum Creek Reservoir project and provide the most basic of all human needs, a reliable and quality water supply.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCAI does hereby support the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas and its efforts to secure a reliable long-term water supply, and to allow the Kickapoo Tribe to develop in a manner that represents the highest ideals of tribal sovereignty and tribal self determination.

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

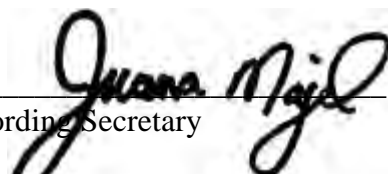
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 21, 2003 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 17-21, 2003.