



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #RAP-10-007

Title: Call for Support of Non-Discrimination and to Preserve Open Internet or Network Neutrality

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, an engaged democracy, relies on our ability as citizens to freely access information online and to be able to use that information to determine our own decisions in politics, health, education, environment and other important matters; and

WHEREAS, broadband penetration in Indian Country is estimated to be less than 10 percent, with one in three Native families having access to analog telephone and where cell phone connection is limited or non-existent; making Native Americans among the most vulnerable populations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, industry, government, education, public safety, media and other major sectors have migrated their information and business onto the Internet making it essential to the everyday life of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, the introduction of metered or capped broadband services could lead to unanticipated harmful consequences for Native Americans by closing off access, connectivity, capability, and content on the Internet; and

WHEREAS, industry control over websites, content, services or applications works against the democratic empowerment of the people. When industry decides who can be heard or censored, the fundamental tool of our engagement on the Internet becomes questionable, jeopardized or harmed; and

WHEREAS, Network Neutrality or Net Neutrality, protects choice of content and equal opportunity, principles important to Native Americans across this country. As more and more Native Americans gain access to broadband, Network Neutrality assures that the Internet is a space where free speech is protected and insured; and

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Tlingit

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

WHEREAS, Network Neutrality assures Native Americans who have long been invisible on the Internet highway the same opportunity for ubiquitous, high quality and open Internet service; and

WHEREAS, Net Neutrality means no discrimination: It prevents Internet service providers from speeding up, slowing down or blocking Web content based on its source, ownership or destination; and

WHEREAS, Net Neutrality leaves Internet users in control of the Internet, enabling self empowerment and self determination, so that you can go anywhere, read or watch anything, and access and share whatever you want on the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the Internet is the future of communications and must be kept open, available and affordable to all Americans. On a free and open Internet, any Web site could become a TV or radio station – there are no gatekeepers or barriers to entry; and

WHEREAS, current market forces and governmental programs are not meeting the communications infrastructure needs of American Indian and Alaska Native communities, forcing many Tribal Entities to become their own de facto “carriers of last resort.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the FCC to reestablish its oversight authority to regulate the broadband industry; and

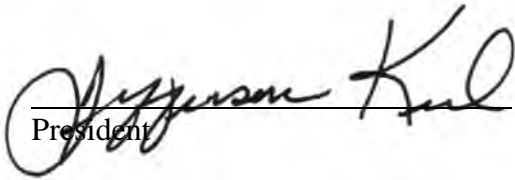
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports the protection of an open, high quality, ubiquitous Internet that is accessible and affordable for all Native Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI urge the FCC to consult with Tribal governments on their unique status as carriers of last resort and continue to be mindful not to harm broadband build-out in 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.

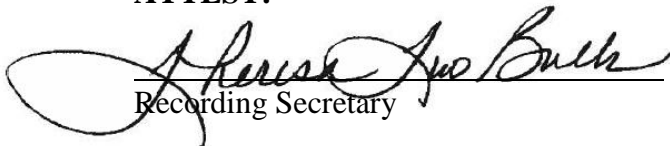
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, South Dakota on June 20-23, 2010, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary