



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PDX-11-008

TITLE: Support for President Obama's Jobs Act Proposal Announced in September, 2011

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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, many American Indian and Alaska Native communities and reservations are affected by extraordinary unemployment, rates of poverty and other disadvantages that primarily exist because no comprehensive programs have been aimed at relieving the conditions that create the poverty and unemployment; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed the "American Jobs Act" that for once can have a very real and dramatic impact on Tribal Nations and Native people; and

WHEREAS, over 20,000 Native American and Alaska Native-owned small businesses would benefit from tax cuts and 1.5 million Native American workers will benefit from the extension of the payroll tax cut as proposed in the "American Jobs Act" proposed by the President; and

WHEREAS, many of the Act's specific investment in tribal infrastructure – schools, roads, homes – supports the tens of thousands of American Indians and Alaska Natives who are construction workers, teachers, and veterans -- to name just a few that would benefit from passage by Congress of the Jobs bill; and

WHEREAS, some provisions of the Act exclude tribal education departments from equal access to funding, and other provisions of the Act fail to fully and explicitly provide access to funding for tribal governments in programs to protect the jobs of first responders and to build infrastructure (i.e. Project Rebuild and the American Infrastructure Financing Authority); and

WHEREAS, given the staggering unemployment crisis in Indian Country, for Tribal economies the time to act is now and Indian country cannot wait any longer for this long needed piece of legislation to be enacted; and

WHEREAS, the American Jobs Act as proposed by President Obama has the potential to fully utilize the economic potential of tribal nations, helping Tribal governments to create jobs for tribal citizens and their non-Native neighbors from Phoenix to rural Alaska and from Mississippi to Minneapolis; and

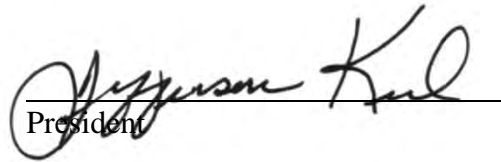
WHEREAS, dire economic conditions in Indian country cannot wait for band-aid assistance programs or cash strapped states to provide further assistance that never really addresses the issues that cause unemployment in the first place.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI urges Congress to pass the “American Jobs Act” as soon as possible to spur economic growth and put American back to work; 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 2011 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon on October 30 – November 4, 2011, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary