Resolutions Committee Recommendation
Resolution #: PDX-20-043
Title: Continuing Support for and Partnership with the Native Farm Bill Coalition to Support Tribal Food Sovereignty Policy

Comments:

This resolution commits NCAI to supporting the efforts of the Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) and working with its partners in advocating for food sovereignty and agriculture policies. This proposed resolution is similar to proposed resolution PDX-20-024, which renews NCAI’s partnership with NFBC for future agriculture, nutrition, and Farm Bill advocacy.

Recommendations:

This resolution is in order and referred to Lands and Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Trust Lands, Natural Resources, and Agriculture. The Resolutions Committee recommends tabling #PDX-20-043 because it is duplicative to #PDX-20-024. The contents of #PDX-20-043 have been incorporated in #PDX-20-024.
TITLE: Continuing Support for and Partnership with the Native Farm Bill Coalition to Support Tribal Food Sovereignty Policy

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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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, agriculture and food production is one of the largest economic development industries in Indian Country, providing over $3.5 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, Tribal governments, Tribal organizations, and allies came together support the work and policy solutions developed by the Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) and its partners which lead to 63 tribal-specific provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill, including the extension of tribal self-determination to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the first time; and

WHEREAS, the need to ensure these new Farm Bill provisions are implemented is essential to fully realizing their potential and supporting the growth of agriculture opportunities in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the food system disruptions during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has shown the even greater need to make strong investments and policy changes for to build strong, resilient food systems in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and federal response has additionally shown the strong vulnerabilities and gaps in the agriculture credit systems that are significantly limiting the tribal producers ability to continue producing during these times, and the need for substantial changes to rethink credit and lending for agriculture to address credit deserts in Indian Country once and for all; and
WHEREAS, establishing additional and permanent tribal self-determination and self-governance authorities at USDA would help ensure that federal food assistance programs and farm programs could be tailored and delivered by tribal governments to the specific needs of their tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, continuing to improve USDA programs and funding for Indian Country will help to ensure that tribal governments and producers can establish long-term plans and goals for their communities and the surrounding rural communities, and help Native farmers and ranchers continue to grow their food businesses and build tribal food systems to support our economies and communities through any time or crisis; and

WHEREAS, true parity for Indian Country is rooting in the acknowledging and uphold tribal sovereignty and self-determination, our tribal governments and tribal producers must be afforded the equitable access and inclusion in all USDA programs, including but not limited to: food and agriculture, rural development, conservation, nutrition, health, and education programs; and

WHEREAS, the NFBC, with its more than 170 Native Nations and over 15 tribal organizations, along with its founding entities – the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (research partner), and the National Congress of American Indians, have continued to work to on the gains made in the 2018 Farm Bill, its implementation, and food and agriculture responses during the COVID-19 pandemic, see that now, more than ever, the NFBC is needed to secure the policy achievements and build towards to ones in subsequent legislation and Farm Bills.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) commits to continue to support the efforts of the Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC), and work with its partners, the Intertribal Agriculture Council and Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (research partner), to improve and advocate for improved food and agriculture policies at the federal level to increase food security, access, and food systems growing, and feed tribal citizens, with tribally produced food, in tribally driven food systems.

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 2020 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held Nov 8, 2020 - Nov 13, 2020, with a quorum present.

Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:

Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary
TITLE: Continuing Support for and Partnership with for the Native Farm Bill Coalition to Support Tribal Food Sovereignty Policy

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WHEREAS, tribal governments, tribal organizations, and allies came together support the work and policy solutions developed by the Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC) and its partners which lead to 63 tribal-specific provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill, including the extension of tribal self-determination to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the first time; and

WHEREAS, the need to ensure these new Farm Bill provisions are implemented are essential to fully realizing their potential and supporting the growth of agriculture opportunities in Indian Country; and

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WHEREAS, establishing additional and permanent tribal self-determination and self-governance authorities at USDA would help ensure that federal food assistance programs and farm programs could be tailored and delivered by tribal governments to the specific needs of their tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, continuing to improve USDA programs and funding for Indian Country will help to ensure that tribal governments and producers can establish long-term plans and goals for their communities and the surrounding rural communities, and help Native farmers and ranchers continue to grow their food businesses and build tribal food systems to support our economies and communities through any time or crisis; and

WHEREAS, true parity for Indian Country is rooting in the acknowledging and uphold tribal sovereignty and self-determination, our tribal governments and tribal producers must be afforded the equitable access and inclusion in all USDA programs, including but not limited to: food and agriculture, rural development, conservation, nutrition, health, and education programs; and

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Fawn Sharp, President

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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary