



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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## THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

### RESOLUTION #SD-02-066

#### **Title: Support for Future Indian Economic Development Conferences**

**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 and their way of life, 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**, economic development for tribal nations is a critical tool for providing more jobs for tribal members and for substantially improving the quality of life in tribal communities throughout Indian country; and

**WHEREAS** recently, in September, 2002, in Phoenix, Arizona, a successful first annual Economic Development Summit on Emerging Tribal Economies was held to discuss how to build reservation based economies that brought together Federal agencies, private industry and Indian businesses, and which had over 1600 participants, showcased more than 85 tribal businesses and had 149 booths representing Indian and non-Indian businesses at the trade show that accompanied the Summit; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians and the Economic Development Subcommittee of the BIA Budget Advisory Council for FY 2003 played a key role in developing the summit, along with the Department of Interior and several private and tribally owned Indian owned businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the long range goals of the Summit were to create 100,000 jobs on or near the reservations by they year 2008 and to develop sustainable economies on the reservations by the year 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the success of the Indian Economic Development Summit in 2002, there is a strong desire among Indian owned business to continue with another Economic Development Summit in 2003 at which there will be an even larger trade show, and for which planning has already begun, that will continue to receive initial funding from the Department of Interior and which will also receive major corporate backing and continued planning and logistical support from such organizations as the InterTribal Economic Alliance, Economic National Indian Business Organizations of the United Indian Development Association, Native American Women's Business Council, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, and the National Indian Business Association.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby support the continuation of the National Indian Economic Development Summit conference in future years, and encourages tribes, tribally and individually owned Indian businesses, the Economic Development Subcommittee of the BIA Budget Advisory Council and other Indian business and economic development organizations to fully participate in the Summit planning and in the Summit itself; and

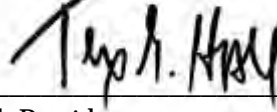
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI and NCAI officials will, to the extent possible, support and assist in the planning and development of an annual Indian Economic Development Summit conference in future years, beginning in 2003 and provide such logistical support as is possible; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI is authorized to apply for such grants and enter into such contracts as may be needed to assist in the planning and development of the annual Indian Economic Development Summit in future years; and

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

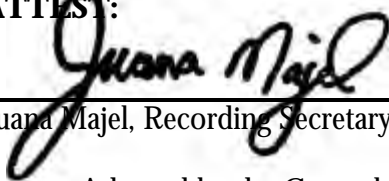
**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002 with a quorum present.



Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002.