



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #TUL-05-013

TITLE: Ely Shoshone Tribe's Land Expansion Proposal

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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, Native American Tribes have significant traditional, cultural and spiritual ties to the land; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has a legal Trust responsibility to all tribes to improve the economic and social welfare conditions of tribal people; and

WHEREAS, land is essential for the social and cultural well-being of Tribes; and

WHEREAS, Congress has developed mechanisms for Tribe's to acquire additional land; and

WHEREAS, Ely Shoshone Tribe has a small land base consisting of 111 acres of which they have maximized its capacity with housing development, recreation, business and service facilities, streets, roads; and

WHEREAS, the Ely Shoshone Tribal Council has identified a tremendous need to expand its reservation land base to further promote and develop cultural educational facilities, to provide additional housing, to establish tribal enterprises, and to strengthen the overall economic and social conditions for its members; and

WHEREAS, additional land is vitally needed for the Tribe's self-determination and for economic development projects to become self-sufficient.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the Ely Shoshone Tribe's Land Expansion proposal for an additional 15,000 acres to be transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the Ely Shoshone Tribe to be held in trust by the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI requests the Nevada Congressional Delegation to introduce appropriate legislation that will convey this land to the Ely Shoshone Tribe whether it be included in the White Pine County Lands Bill or another Legislative Bill; 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 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the 62nd Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 4, 2005 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians held from October 30, 2005 to November 4, 2005 at the Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma.