



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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RESOLUTION #SD-02-100

Title: Defense of Sacred Areas to Ensure the Perpetuation of All Species – the Four Legged, Winged, Waterlife, and Two Legged

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, the NCAI is an organization that furthers the interests of tribes and is concerned with the protection of natural resources essential to tribal life; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes have kinship, social, ceremonial, cultural, and spiritual connections with the four legged, winged, waterlife; and

WHEREAS, the integrity and sacredness of special areas such as spawning, nesting, birthing, and denning areas that ensure the perpetuation of life of the four legged, winged, waterlife, and two legged are threatened by intrusive disruptive industrial activity and development; and

WHEREAS, Tribes have sovereign authority and responsibility to ensure the protection of the health and well being of all life to meet the essential needs of the four legged, winged, waterlife; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Tribes recognize the sovereignty of the four legged, winged, and waterlife to continue in abundance as part of the total environment and web of life; and

WHEREAS, the traditional Tribal worldview is one of respect for special areas that the four legged, winged, and waterlife rely upon for spawning, nesting, birthing, and denning as sacred, to be honored and defended, as are women in childbirth, for we recognize that these special birthplaces represent the umbilical cords of life for the four legged, winged, waterlife, and two legged; and

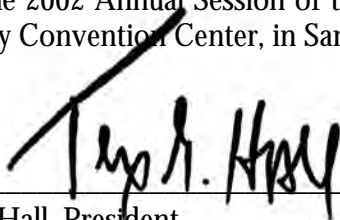
WHEREAS, Tribes retain all sovereign authority over their lands and natural resources not expressly removed by Congress; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby defend and promote protection of threatened spawning, nesting, birthing, and denning areas as sacred areas to ensure the perpetuation and abundance of life; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the 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.