The National Congress of American Indians  
Resolution #PHX-16-040

TITLE: Requesting NCAI Lead Development of a Comprehensive Policy Agenda that Supports Tribal Nations’ Efforts to Build Sustainable Economies

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, an extensive and growing body of research clearly demonstrates that the only policy that has proven successful in fostering sustainable economic development in Indian Country is tribal self-determination and self-governance; and

WHEREAS, over the past 40 years, since the passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, a growing number of Tribal Nations have built burgeoning tribal economies that provide economic and job opportunities to their citizens and others; and

WHEREAS, a number of legislative proposals have been advanced in recent years in Congress that seek to enhance tribal economies, combining tribal and data-driven economic development strategies with federal and other sources of equity and technical assistance to support economic development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians conducts a comprehensive assessment of the Native American Economic Policy Report (see attachment) that it and the Department of Interior’s Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development co-produced in 2007 as well as other relevant reports and recommendations on or impacting tribal economic and community development generated by tribal nations, federal agencies and others since that time. This assessment should include an analysis of the report’s 100 policy recommendations to determine which recommendations have been addressed, which are no longer relevant, and which still demand action by federal policymakers; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the completion of this assessment, NCAI convene a summit of key tribal leaders and economic development experts to review the assessment for the purposes of crafting a comprehensive policy agenda that supports Tribal Nations’ efforts to build sustainable economies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI work with its federal government partners to identify and secure funding for the development of the assessment and the convening of the summit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI and tribal nations could then use this policy agenda to (1) educate Congress and the Administration about legislative and administrative actions they can and should take to support Tribal Nations’ efforts to build sustainable economies, and (2) foster public-private partnerships involving tribal nations; 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 by the General Assembly at the 2016 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Phoenix Convention Center, October 9th-14th 2016, with a quorum present.

Brian Cladoosby, President

ATTEST:

Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary