



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #AK-21-005

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### NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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**TITLE: Calling upon the United States of America, through the President and the Congress, to fully apply the Buy Indian Policy across the Federal Government**

**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**, Tribal Nations are sovereigns that pre-date the United States, with prior and treaty protected rights to self-government and to our tribal lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America often stole lands from Tribal Nations and American Indian and Alaska Natives whether by warfare, forced removal, violent encroachment, corporate and government theft, which resulted in the destruction of Tribal Nations' economies; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these challenges, Tribal Nations are capable of and have made great strides in reclaiming and rebuilding their economies; and

**WHEREAS**, America owes a federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations to assist in restoring Native homelands to livable homelands and Nations to prosperous, resilient, and sustainable Native communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buy Indian Act was signed into law on June 25, 1910 and was meant to require the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to give funding and procurement preference to American Indian owned or operated businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, President Biden issued an Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government on January 20, 2021, calling on all federal agencies to review the potential barriers underserved communities and individuals face in agency procurement and contracting opportunities, and promote equal opportunities in federal procurement processes; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal funding currently being allocated for the purposes of infrastructure, job creation, and addressing climate change and mitigation must be equitably distributed to tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buy Indian Policy is a restorative policy intended to provide jobs for Native people, especially where the federal government destroyed traditional Native economies.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) calls upon the United States of America, through the President and the Congress, to fully apply the Buy Indian Policy across the federal government, specifically to the agencies and departments that participate in the White House Council on Native American Affairs, in accordance with the Buy Indian Act and Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that where the federal government uses traditional Native treaty and ancestral lands for federal facilities, the responsible federal department shall provide a Buy Native Policy for the Tribal Nation in which the federal facility is located; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that where the federal government uses traditional Native treaty and ancestral lands for the production of energy, a Buy Native Green Energy policy must be enacted and Tribal Nations must be given the opportunity to resell the energy to wholesale customers or sell it to other buyers; 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 2021 Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held June 20, 2021 - June 24, 2021, with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President

**ATTEST:**



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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary