



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #AK-21-006

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TITLE: Calling on the President and Congress to Prioritize Tribal Infrastructure Funding in any National Package

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, for decades, the federal government has recognized that Indian Country has sub-standard infrastructure in every sector, as documented in the Quiet Crisis Report of 2003, and the Broken Promises Report of 2018; and

WHEREAS, 70 percent of Native homes are in need of repair, 48 percent of Native households lack access to clean water, over 20,000 miles of surface transportation consists of unimproved earthen or gravel roads, 40 percent of Tribal households lack broadband, and there are hundreds of crumbling Tribal health and education facilities that impact life expectancy and education attainment; and

WHEREAS, Chronic underfunding increased AI/ANs vulnerability to the coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) pandemic and resulted in our communities having, at times, the highest per-capita COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and Death rates in the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to fulfill their trust and treaty responsibilities, to establish and fully fund a n infrastructure package that includes the needs of Tribal Nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI urges the Federal government to promptly pass a funding package that addresses the critical infrastructure needs of 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 2021 Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held June 20, 2021 - June 24, 2021, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary