



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Tex G. Hall
Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Joe A. Garcia
*Ohkay Owingeh
(Pueblo of San Juan)*

RECORDING SECRETARY
Juana Majel
Pauma-Yuima

TREASURER
Alma Ransom
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ABERDEEN
Harold Frazier
Cheyenne River Sioux

ALBUQUERQUE
John F. Gonzales
San Ildefonso Pueblo

ANADARKO
James M. Potter
Prairie Band Potawatomi

BILLINGS
Geri Small
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

JUNEAU
Mike Williams
Yupiaq

MINNEAPOLIS
Bob Chicks
*Stockbridge-Munsee Band of
Mohican Indians*

MUSKOGEE
Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

NORTHEAST
Kevin Seneca
Seneca Nation

PHOENIX
Evelyn B. Juan-Manuel
Tohono O'odham Nation

PORTLAND
Ernie Stensgar
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

SACRAMENTO
Richard Milanovich
*Agua Caliente Band of
Cahuilla Indians*

SOUTHEAST
Eddie Tullis
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

RESOLUTION #SD-02-107C

Title: To Endorse the NCAI TEA-21 Reauthorization Tribal Leaders' "White Paper" and Preliminary Legislative Proposal Entitled: "The Tribal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century," to Increase and More Equitably Distribute Highway Trust Funds in Indian Country

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 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA21) expires in FY 2003 and Congress and the Administration have already begun to develop reauthorization legislation to govern Federal transportation policy for the next six years; and

WHEREAS, NCAI established the TEA-21 Reauthorization Task Force to identify tribal transportation priorities and needs facing Indian tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has met on numerous occasions to develop a consensus set of Tribal transportation policies and proposed amendments to TEA-21 to increase funding for the Tribal Transportation Program (formerly the Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program) and to more equitably allocate such funds among all Indian tribes for the consideration of tribal leaders; and

WHEREAS, NCAI and tribal officials have met with members of Congress, the authorizing committees' staff, and Administration officials to share tribal concerns regarding transportation priorities in Indian country and NCAI convened a national conference of Tribal, Federal, State and local transportation officials in Washington, D.C. in September 2002, to share with Tribal officials the work product of the Task Force and begin the legislative drafting process so that Indian tribes could fully participate in the National debate on transportation priorities with Congress and the Administration; and

WHEREAS, a tribal leadership "White Paper" has been developed, together with proposed preliminary legislative amendments to TEA-21 which increase funding for the Tribal Transportation Program and facilitates greater Tribal control of transportation policies serving Indian country whether under P.L. 93-638 or when performed by the BIA, so that Indian tribal governments can develop sound transportation policies for their communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby endorse the Task Force "White Paper"; and

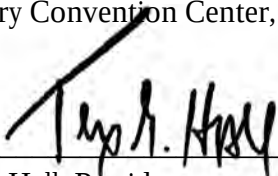
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the preliminary legislative amendments entitled "The Tribal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century" shall be provided to the Tribal leadership for review, comment and finalization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI respectfully urges the Administration and Congress to consider Tribal transportation priorities as they take up reauthorization of TEA-21; 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 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.