



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SAC-06-007

TITLE: Support Enhanced Authority and Increased Budget for the Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (formerly Extension Indian Reservation Program--EIRP)

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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, the Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP), formerly known as the Extension Indian Reservation Program (EIRP) was authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill (Section 1677, P.L. 101-624), and directed that the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Extension Service (now Cooperative State Research, Educations and Extension Service—CSREES), shall establish appropriate extension education programs on Indian reservations and tribal jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation specified consultation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association (SWIAA); and

WHEREAS, IAC and SWIAA, along with many other Indian and non-Indian organizations and supporters have worked tirelessly to educate Congress, tribes and land-grant universities about the value and importance of such an educational program; and

WHEREAS, CSREES is the federal partner jointly administering Cooperative Extension programs with individual state “1862” authorized land-grant universities, utilizing funds from municipal, county, state, federal government and extramural sources; and

WHEREAS, there are about 8,928+ full-time equivalents (FTE’s) of 1862 university faculty and academic professional extension workers employed in 3,028 counties (96 % of all counties) in all 50 states, territories and possessions; and

WHEREAS, there are 562 federally recognized tribes, and 314 federally recognized Indian reservations in the United States, being served by only 26 FTE's of extension faculty dedicated solely to Indian reservation extension education—(4% of all tribes; 7% of all reservations); and

WHEREAS, although the enabling legislation authorized “such sums as may be necessary” in federal financial support, Congress has never appropriated more than \$2 million; and

WHEREAS, Indian people, especially those living on reservations, are in need of equity on this point and demand the same access to 1862 land-grant university extension educational programs that neighboring non-Indian communities have received for over 92 years (since the inception of Extension work initially authorized under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, P.L. 63-95, as amended).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI shall, at least annually, petition the Congress of the United States, the US Department of Agriculture, and CSREES to provide adequate and equitable funding for this necessary program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby recommend and support a permanent enhancement of FRTEP funding, beginning with an appropriation of \$8 million in the next federal fiscal year, and including regular increases to approximately \$30 million over the next 10 years, for the purpose of gradually expanding FRTEP to additional tribes and reservations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI believes its support of FRTEP expansion is fully complimentary to the positive impacts of the “1994” Tribal Colleges and Universities extension programs; and leverages the organizational flexibility within FRTEP to rapidly expand services to potentially hundreds of reservations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports and encourages American Indian/Alaska Native and Hawaiian Homelands tribes in their pursuit of equitable access to 1862 land grant university Cooperative Extension educational programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

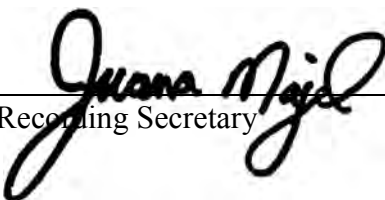
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2006 63rd Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California on October 1-6, 2006, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary