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NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SD-02-088

Title: Reauthorization for the Administration of Native Americans

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 Federal Government has a trust responsibility to Tribes that is a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation of the United States to protect tribal lands, assets, resources and treaty rights, as well as a duty to carry out the mandates of federal law with respect to American Indians and Alaskan Native Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Programs Act created the Administration for Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) awards funds through grants to American Indians, Native Americans, Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. These grants are awarded to individual organizations that successfully apply for discretionary funds; and

WHEREAS, the ANA needs periodic reauthorization from Congress to continue programs to its constituency; and

WHEREAS, The Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) is a Tribal organization composed of 48 federally recognized Indian Tribes, collectively representing over one-half of all reservation lands and American Indians in the contiguous 48 states, four affiliate members of Canadian Indian First Nations and governed by a Board of Directors composed of the principal elected official of each member Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the ANA has supplied CERT with a substantial amount of grant money to carry out programs and services for CERT member Tribes; and

WHEREAS, ANA funds many important Tribal priority programs; and

WHEREAS, CERT has led the reauthorization for ANA and its concomitant programs in the past; and

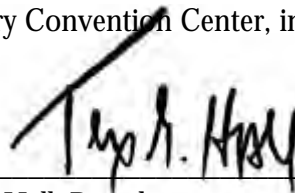
WHEREAS, the 48 member Tribes of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes recently passed a resolution to secure reauthorization of the ANA and its programs and to help organize a constituency effort to support an increase for the ANA SEDS appropriation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support and seek to combine efforts with the ANA constituency to secure reauthorization of the ANA and its programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of the 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 Majal, 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.