



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PHX-08-050

TITLE: Support for a Tribal Wood Stove Changeout Program

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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, many Tribal members use wood burning devices – often older, non-EPA certified wood stoves and fireplace inserts – as a significant source of heat in their homes. For example, about 95% of the Makah Tribe's members living on or near the reservation burn wood to heat their homes, which yields approximately 35 tons of particle pollution into the Tribal air shed. As a result, Tribal members and their neighbors can be routinely exposed to wood smoke from both indoor and outdoor air; and

WHEREAS, a Tribal wood stove changeout program would enable Tribal members to replace their old, dirty burning, non-certified wood stove with an new, clean burning EPA-certified wood stove (those made after 1992) or a pellet stove. A wood stove changeout of old inefficient wood stoves for EPA-certified wood stoves shall provide significant health benefits to Tribal members. Wood smoke contains several air pollutants including greenhouse gases, toxins, and particulate matter. Exposure to wood smoke is a risk for Tribal members. Wood stove changeouts will reduce these emissions. Our elders, children and persons who suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, coronary artery disease, and heart failure are at greater risk; and

WHEREAS, a Tribal wood stove changeout program would address energy concerns for Tribal communities. New, clean burning EPA-certified wood stoves (those made after 1992) are 50% more efficient than old non-certified wood stoves. EPA-certified wood stoves use 1/3 less wood than old non-certified wood stoves. Oftentimes wood is available for free via State land offices, U.S. Forest Service and other land management agencies. EPA-certified stoves offer diverse options of fuel sources, including: wood, wood pellets, non-wood pellets, corn, and agriculture waste. EPA-certified wood stoves would allow Tribes to become sustainable in heating Tribal homes by the use of renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, new EPA-certified wood stoves significantly reduce both indoor and outdoor air pollution. A University of Montana study demonstrates a 72% reduction of particle pollution (PM2.5) through a wood stove changeout (indoor and ambient). Residential wood burning in the U.S. emits 420,000 tons of fine PM2.5 each year. Changing out 1 old, dirty, inefficient stove is equivalent to taking 5 old diesel buses off the road; and

WHEREAS, new EPA-certified wood stoves create a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from old inefficient wood stoves. Thus allowing Tribal homes to contribute to working on the biggest ecological issue Tribal nations face, global climate shift. Additionally, certified wood stoves burn non-fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, an EPA-certified wood stove changeout program can produce economic stimulus in Tribal communities via job creation by the need of Tribal members to install new wood stoves and the potential to manufacture wood stove pellets; and

WHEREAS, an EPA-certified wood stove changeout program would promote healthy Tribal forests with the use of sustainable methods by thinning unhealthy forests which are threatened by overgrowth and infestation (like the Japanese Emerald Ash Bore and Western Bark Beetle). These potential fuels for forest fires could be used as heating sources for Tribal communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the efforts of sovereign Indian Nations and Alaska Natives, the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA), the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association (HPBA), National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with industry in promoting a national Tribal wood stove campaign; and

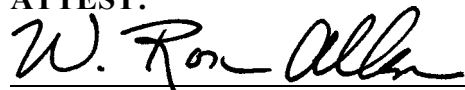
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI shall support legislation to provide federal funding for a Tribal wood stove program; and

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 2008 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona on October 19-24, 2008, with a quorum present.



President**ATTEST:**

Recording Secretary