



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PSP-09-016

TITLE: In Support of Amending the Indian Long Term Leasing Act to Spur Housing Development in Native American Communities

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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 Indian Long Term Leasing Act of 1955 (“ILTLA”) as currently written requires the Secretary of the Interior to review and approve leases for residential, commercial and other purposes for parcels of land on Indian reservations; and

WHEREAS, the ILTLA process can become lengthy, taking many months or longer, which often hinders the development of housing and related infrastructure development; and

WHEREAS, under ILTLA, certain Indian tribes that have been authorized to negotiate and execute leases of their tribal trust lands with the requirement that the leases be reviewed or approved by the Secretary of the Interior have been successful in spurring housing and community development in their communities; and

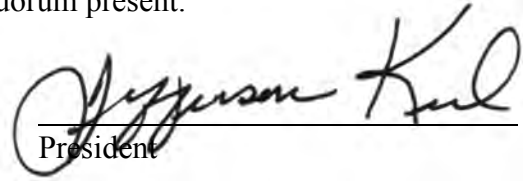
WHEREAS, reform of the leasing process under ILTLA will remove barriers between Native American families and homeownership.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support reforming Federal leasing requirements to encourage homeownership and business development in Native American communities by allowing tribes to enact their own leasing regulations and approve residential leases and leasehold mortgages; and

BE IT FURTHER 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 2009 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Palm Springs Convention Center in Palm Springs, California on October 11-16, 2009, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary