



**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS**

RESOLUTION #SD-02-014

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 Polawatomi

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

**Title: A Resolution to Oppose the Consolidation, Regionalization, or
Termination of Alaska's Federally Recognized Tribal Governments**

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 Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI has among its tribal membership many Alaska Tribes and the incumbent responsibility to advocate for this sector of its membership; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Tribes have since time immemorial occupied the territory that is now the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, there are today 229 federally recognized Tribes in Alaska comprising a multitude of different languages, cultures, and ways of life; and

WHEREAS, as with all federally recognized tribes, Alaska Tribes possess an inherent sovereignty which has never been expressly diminished by Congress; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Tribes significantly contribute to Alaska by carrying out necessary government activities for their villages and members, many of which are not provided by the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Tribes, exercise self-determination individually and collectively to initiate the effective delivery of health, social services, housing and other programs for the benefit of all Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, although a small number of Alaska's Tribes have been forced by ecological or economic conditions to relocate away from their traditional lands, those Tribes continue to remain to this day as functioning federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Tribes consistent with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act through self-governance and self-determination, to varying degrees have taken on the responsibility of administering a wide array of governmental activities and programs at the local level, consistent with local conditions, available personnel resources; and

WHEREAS, members of the Alaska Delegation to the U.S. Congress have stated their intent to "consolidate" or "regionalize" Alaska tribal service delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, there is significant concern among Alaska Tribes that the proposed consolidation, regionalization, or termination may occur by means of a rider to other, unrelated legislation (such as appropriations legislation) without any consultation with the Alaska tribal governments, and without adherence to the normal legislative process (including hearings and mark-up considerations by the appropriate committees of Congress) because the Alaska Delegation has, in the past, used such "riders" for specific targeted reasons; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Alaska Native voices be heard on an issue as fundamental as the continued existence and role of Alaska Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council of the Alaska Legislature has an initiative underway to secure the termination of Alaska Tribes either through administrative action by the Secretary of the Interior, through legislative action in Congress or through judicial action in the Courts; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Tribes and Alaska Native organizations are currently preparing to declare to the U.S. Congress that any consolidation, regionalization, or termination of any of Alaska's federally-recognized tribes is completely unacceptable to Alaska Tribes and all of Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, should such action be taken by Congress, it would set a precedent for congressional consolidation, reorganization, or termination of any federally-recognized Indian Tribe or group of Tribes in the contiguous United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI hereby opposes any effort by Congress to regionalize, consolidate, or terminate Alaska Tribes for any purpose whatsoever, including the distribution of federal funds, and hereby further supports the continued existence of the 229 federally-recognized tribes in Alaska (and any other Alaska tribe or tribes acquiring federal recognition in the future); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI will actively oppose any Congressional action that does not first involve government-to-government tribal consultation; and

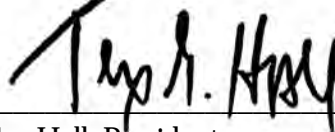
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI respectfully requests that Congress adhere to the normal legislative process for considering any legislation that would impact the roles and responsibilities of Alaska Tribes, with any such proposed legislation given full and appropriate consideration by the relevant committees of Congress, and to reject any current or future initiative to enact such legislative through means of appropriations act riders, including riders to any continuing resolution that might be considered by Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI shall work in partnership with the Alaska Tribes and Alaska Native organizations to ensure that the sovereign status of Alaska's Tribes is protected by educating Congress about the appropriateness of the current structure of Tribes in Alaska in order to effectively oppose any efforts to regionalize, consolidate or terminate tribes in Alaska; 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.