



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #RAP-10-018

### TITLE: Calling upon the Interior Department to Reconsider its Approval of the Cape Wind Project – EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

**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 Secretary of the Interior recently approved the Cape Wind Project, which would allow for the construction of 130 wind turbines, each reaching a height of 440 feet above the surface of the water, along with related equipment and cabling in Nantucket Sound - an area of extraordinary spiritual, cultural and historic sensitivity to several Indian Nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the major historic preservation entities, including the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer, and the historic preservation officials of the Mashpee Wampanoag and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) expressed opposition and even alarm at the harm that this proposed project would do to ceremonial activities as well as sites of extraordinary spiritual and cultural value; and

**WHEREAS**, Indian Country supports the development of renewable energy, but such development should not come at the expense of Native historic and cultural places and over the objections of Native tribal and cultural leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal government has a decision-making role in a number of development proposals across the Nation that would harm areas of sacred importance to Native peoples such as the San Francisco Peaks, where the Federal government approved the use of treated wastewater to make snow at a ski resort, and Mt. Taylor, in New Mexico, where uranium mining companies have submitted applications to open mining operations.

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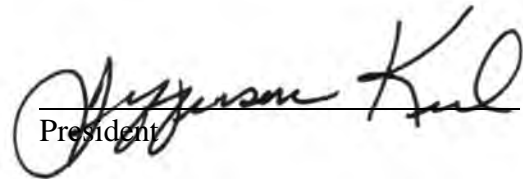
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby call upon the Interior Department to reconsider its decision with regard to the Cape Wind Project before any sites are damaged and to explain in detail its rationale for rejecting Tribal concerns, especially in the context of similar development proposals across the Nation, as well as rejecting Tribal proposals to locate the project on alternative off-shore sites that would not interfere with or harm Tribal spiritual interests; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI shall advocate for the protection of the sacred sites impacted by the Cape Wind Project; and

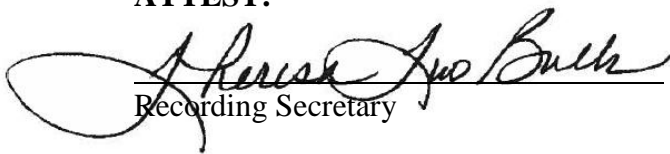
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, South Dakota on June 20-23, 2010, with a quorum present.

  
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President

**ATTEST:**

  
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Recording Secretary