



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PDX-11-061

TITLE: Ensure the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Education Uphold Their Trust Responsibilities to Address School Construction and Facility Requirements for BIE schools

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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, pursuant to 25 CFR Part 32.3 the Bureau of Indian Education's (BIE) mission is to provide quality education opportunities from early childhood through life in accordance with a tribe's needs for cultural and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, many BIE schools across Indian Country are in severe deterioration and at present, there is a backlog of over 1.3 billion dollars in school construction required to make these schools habitable and safe; and

WHEREAS, the John F. Kennedy Day School, located in Cedar Creek, Arizona on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation is an example of a BIE funded school which is in need of BIE construction funding; and

WHEREAS, the school facility was originally constructed in the early 1960's for the purpose of educating students in Kindergarten thru Sixth Grade and had an approximate enrollment of less than 100 students; and

WHEREAS, over the past few decades the school has expanded to an enrollment of approximately 234 students in Kindergarten thru Eighth Grade; and

WHEREAS, to accommodate the increased enrollment and grade levels, eight mobile trailers have been located near the original school facility; and

WHEREAS, the physical condition of the original school facility and the mobile trailers have deteriorated and maintenance been deferred to the point where the school is neither safe nor habitable and is impeding the ability of Indian students to learn in a safe environment; and

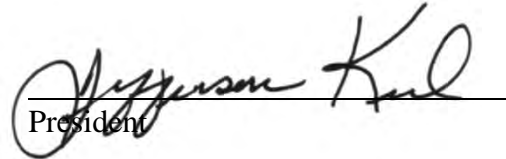
WHEREAS, the John F. Kennedy School requires major renovations and updates to enable children to be safe and learn because of the following: an inadequate fire alarm system, outdated computer cabling, inadequate phone service, buildings containing asbestos, buildings located in a creek which floods during heavy rains, a sewer system that frequently overflows due to its location in a flood plain.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI demand that BIE meet its stated goal of providing a quality educational facilities for children residing on reservations across the United States and specifically for those children attending the John F. Kennedy Day School located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in Cedar Creek Arizona; 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 2011 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon on October 30 – November 4, 2011, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary