



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-090

TITLE: Support for Establishment of an Indian Youth Service Corps

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 youth of today will become the leaders and caretakers of our lands, knowledge, and cultures of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for tribal men and women to contribute to the care of the natural resources that tie tribal communities to the land and comprise an inseparable part of tribal identity, cultures, societies, spirituality, and economies; and

WHEREAS, conservation and outdoor programs provided to tribal youth such as through the US Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and Project Venture, provide hope, inspiration and tangible opportunities for tribal youth and demonstrable statistical evidence of improvements in school attendance and reductions in alcohol and drug use and other social and health illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has made outdoor activities, healthy eating, and active lifestyles, priority issues for the nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, there is no federal program established and funded to provide tribal youth the opportunity to engage in the natural resources conservation of their homelands; and

WHEREAS, establishment of an Indian Youth Service Corps would provide an meaningful opportunity to inspire and enable young men and women to care for their lands and pursue careers in natural resources management; and

WHEREAS, Congressional bills H.R. 1612 sponsored by Rep. Grijalva, and S. 1442 sponsored by Sen. Bingaman, establish an Indian Youth Service Corps; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as S. 1442 may be considered during the 111th Congress' final session beginning this week of November 15th, 2010.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports the establishment and meaningful funding of an Indian Youth Service Corps; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCAI urges Congress include and support the establishment of this Corps as embodied in S. 1442 and H.R. 1612 in legislation being considered in the final days of the 111th Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCAI urges this and future Administrations and Congresses to establish and meaningfully and consistently fund the Indian Youth Service Corps; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

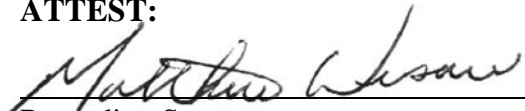
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary