



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #TUL-05-070

TITLE: Request for Federal Emergency Management Agency to Assist Indian Tribes in Emergencies

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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 towards 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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for ensuring that the United States is prepared for disasters, both natural and man-made; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, the United States has suffered numerous catastrophic natural disasters and at least two major terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, concerns have arisen lately that under-privileged peoples in the United States, such as Native Americans, suffer greatly when they are victimized by disaster, more so than the rest of society, because of the lack of immediate resources and emergency assistance; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans often reside in very remote areas without adequate access to water, electricity, communication, and immediate healthcare; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that Native Americans will receive proper assistance before, during, and after a disaster, FEMA needs to develop adequate plans to meet the needs of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, it does not appear from recent events that FEMA has made adequate plans for assisting Native Americans and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI wishes to urge FEMA to prepare and execute, as needed, adequate plans to meet the needs of Native Americans when a disaster confronts them.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency prepare adequate plans for assisting Native Americans before, during, and after a national disaster and that such plans adequately take into account that Native Americans are often living in remote areas that are sometimes difficult to access and which frequently are plagued with inadequate infrastructure and resources for dealing with a national disaster; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

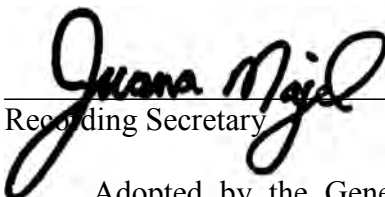
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the 62nd Annual Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 4, 2005 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2005 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians held from October 30, 2005 to November 4, 2005 at the Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma.