



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #FTL-04-090

TITLE: Support Designation of the Bear Paw National Battlefield

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 Bear Paw National Battlefield site is a historic traditional use area for many tribes and our members; and

WHEREAS, the site is the last campsite of Chief Joseph during the Nez Perce War and in order to preserve his people from perishing from cold and starvation Chief Joseph ended his armed resistance in the Nez Perce War to protect his people, and

WHEREAS, NCAI wishes to give proper recognition to the brave warriors from many tribes who fought with Chief Joseph in the Nez Perce War; and

WHEREAS, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and other tribes have significant cultural, traditional and religious interests in protecting the site; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the National Park Service undertook a feasibility study for the development of a proposed visitor facility for the site; and

WHEREAS, the perpetual protection and preservation of the Bear Paw National Battlefield is an issue of significant interest to NCAI; and

WHEREAS, NCAI is concerned about potential adverse impacts that development may have on the site.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI recommends that the National Park Service designate and protect the Bear Paw National Battlefield as a Traditional Cultural Property, and register it as a National Historic Preservation Site under the National Historic Preservation Act.

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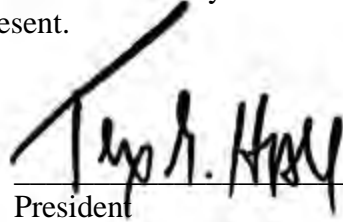
NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order #13175, the NCAI demands that the National Park Service consult with the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and other appropriate tribes regarding any proposed development of the Bear Paw National Battlefield site, including, but not limited to, the visitor center proposed in the 2000 feasibility study.

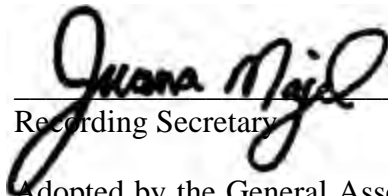
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2004 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL on October 15, 2004 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2004 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held from October 10th to the 15th at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.