



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #MKE-17-032

### **TITLE: State Departments of Transportation Memorandums of Understanding with Tribes**

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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**, tribes and Tribal Employment Rights Offices (TERO) work with State Departments of Transportation to increase American Indian and Alaskan Natives employment on highway construction projects both on and near reservations; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration has issued guidance that allows State Departments of Transportation to include Indian Preference in employment on federal-aid transportation projects; and

**WHEREAS**, as an example, the Oregon State Department of Transportation has entered into agreements with multiple tribes in Oregon; and the purpose of the agreements are to establish procedures to be followed by all parties to ensure that Indian Preference provisions are implemented on the federal aid highway projects located on or near a tribal lands; and these agreements have led to providing living wage jobs to American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) encourages the State Departments of Transportation to enter into agreements with Tribes in their state to include Indian Preference and other TERO requirements on federal aid transportation projects located on or near tribal lands; 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 2017 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, WI, Oct 15, 2017 - Oct 20, 2017, with a quorum present.

  
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Jefferson Keel, President

**ATTEST:**

  
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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary