



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-018

### TITLE: Socially Responsible Investing for Indian Country

**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**, Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) is a broad-based approach to investing that now encompasses an estimated \$2.71 trillion out of \$25.1 trillion in the U.S. investment marketplace; and

**WHEREAS**, SRI recognizes that corporate responsibility and societal concerns are valid parts of investing and that SRI based investment encourages corporations to improve their practices on issues of concern to Tribes such as intellectual property rights, cultural rights, self-determination and Tribal sovereignty; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Governments are increasingly exercising their sovereignty through strengthening their institutions of government, taking over the management of their financial and resource assets and directing their financial investments towards the development of Tribal enterprises to generate jobs, income and opportunities for their Peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, NCAI, Native American Financial Officers Association and other financial advisors and firms recognize a growth in investable assets in Indian country; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Governments have a fiduciary responsibility to exercise due diligence for investing their funds, and socially responsible investing can assist them to utilize tribal assets to address a range of issues of concern to them, in addition to securing positive financial returns; and

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#### NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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[www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)

**WHEREAS**, Social Responsible Investment has consistently demonstrated an equal or improved level of financial return on investments compared to other types of investment, while at the same time supporting and respecting the rights and concerns of Tribes and Indigenous Peoples in the US and around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Governments and SRI can work together to enhance the “bottom lines” of the companies in which they invest in and, in so doing, can deliver greater investment returns and more long-term wealth to the tribal government, tribal members, tribal communities, neighbors, customers and vendors; and

**WHEREAS**, the SRI community has made firm commitments to support the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including free prior and informed consent, sovereignty, cultural rights and non-discrimination, through the establishment of Indigenous Peoples' rights screens and the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples Working Group; and

**WHEREAS**, the SRI community relies on direct input and respects the decision-making by impacted Tribes in order to determine its advocacy priorities and activities; and

**WHEREAS**, there are several ways in which to adopt SRI strategies including but not limited to screening out companies with a pattern of negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples, the environment, human rights and other issues of direct concern to Tribes; undertaking shareholder advocacy and engagement with companies on issues of social, environmental, cultural, human rights, sovereignty and governance concerns; and Community Investing to direct capital to Indigenous communities that are underserved by traditional financial services institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribal Governments working Nation to Nation as well as collectively can have a tremendous impact on corporate policies and decision-making through partnering on shareholder resolutions in support of Tribal issues, activism and concerns, for example: offensive mascots and logos, threats to sacred sites by corporate activity, environmental contamination issues and ensuring free prior and informed consent by impacted tribes and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, past shareholder advocacy initiatives outlined in the “*CREATING A SUSTAINABLE WORLD: A Guide to Responsible Stewardship of American Indian Assets*” demonstrate the potentials impacts of tribal SRI engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, development of opportunities to consolidate Tribal SRI activities and provide a clearinghouse for tribal governments to track and monitor SRI work and initiatives would provide improved accesses and information to Tribes.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI encourages Tribal Governments to adopt a SRI policy with regards to their investable assets; and

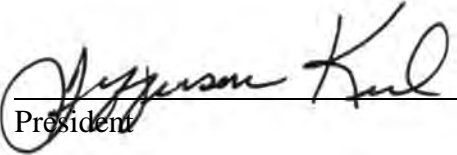
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI formally adopt SRI as its standard practice; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI create space on its web site for Tribal Government to reference, monitor, track and report on Tribal or indigenous SRI initiatives; and

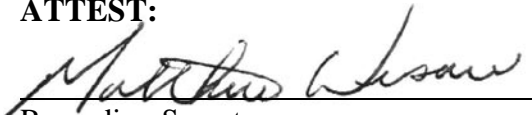
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**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.

  
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President

**ATTEST:**

  
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Recording Secretary