



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution PHX-08-002

TITLE: Support of Legislation that Would Impose Truth-in-Labeling Requirements for Wild Rice Sold In or Exported from the United States

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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, the Ojibwe/Chippewa tribes of the Great Lakes area are the largest producers of natural lake and river wild rice (manoomin) in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the right of the Ojibwe/Chippewa to harvest and use wild rice (manoomin) was reserved and guaranteed in treaties signed between Tribes and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, wild rice is significant to the nutrition, culture, traditions and livelihood of Ojibwe/Chippewa tribes and their members; and

WHEREAS, the producers of cultivated, paddy grown rice have used American Indian imagery and tribal names to market their commercially-cultivated rice and in doing so, have confused consumers and diminished the distinction between cultivated rice and naturally occurring wild rice; and

WHEREAS, federal truth-in-labeling protection of wild rice is necessary to protect and preserve traditional wild rice and its unique place in America.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support a federal truth-in-labeling law that requires a distinction between naturally grown wild rice and paddy grown rice for all *zizania* sold in or exported from the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI recommends that these federal truth-in-labeling requirements be incorporated into the North America Free Trade Agreement; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until the legislation called for herein is made law.

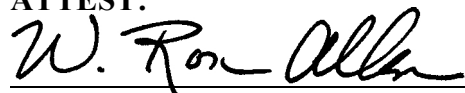
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2008 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona on October 19-24, 2008, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary