



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #MIC-06-011

TITLE: Resolution in Support of NCAI Law Enforcement Study and NCAI Sponsored 2006 Law Enforcement Conference

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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, one of the NCAI's current goals and priorities is to improve law enforcement and public safety services in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, tribal leaders, Indian reservation residents, and tribal law enforcement officers are also currently advocating for enhanced and improved law enforcement and public safety services on Indian Reservations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, tribal law enforcement needs and issues were discussed at the May 2006 meeting of the Tribal Budget Advisory Council, and the Tribal Budget Advisory Council members who were present at that meeting concluded that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Congress of the United States lacked the tribal law enforcement and public safety data that they require in order to make informed decisions about the most effective use of federal law enforcement and public safety funds; and

WHEREAS, at the same meeting, the Tribal Budget Advisory Council learned that the National Native American Law Enforcement Association (NNALEA) has developed a methodology for collecting data on tribal law enforcement and tribal Homeland Security needs, and that NNALEA has already collected critically needed information from more than forty (40) Tribes which are located on or near the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada; and

WHEREAS, after some discussion at its May 2006 meeting, the Tribal Budget Advisory Council concluded that each tribal government, as well as the federal, local and state agencies which fund that tribal government's law enforcement programs, need the type of information that NNALEA has collected in order to make well-reasoned decisions, and in order to assist the tribes in developing effective programs for addressing the public safety and law enforcement needs of Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the members of NCAI agree with the Tribal Budget Advisory Council's conclusions; and

WHEREAS, NNALEA's approach is to work directly with tribal leaders and with local tribal law enforcement professionals to evaluate current conditions and identify current tribal law enforcement needs; and

WHEREAS, NNALEA shares the information that it collects with the duly elected Tribal Governments of each tribe that it surveys and with their law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, at its May 2006 meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland, the Tribal Budget Advisory Council passed a resolution officially: (1) requesting that the Bureau of Indian Affairs award a contract or grant in the amount of \$200,000-\$250,000 to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) under the condition that NCAI will subcontract with the National Native American Law Enforcement Association to expand its recently completed survey to include data on the community law enforcement and Homeland Security needs of all of the tribes which NNALEA has not yet surveyed and (2) called upon the Bureau of Indian Affairs to host, or provide the funding for the National Congress of American Indians to host, a tribal law enforcement planning conference to be held not later than the end of August 2006, and that it invite the tribal leaders and law enforcement professionals from each tribe to attend, and (3) that the goal of this conference will be to allow those attendees to come together to discuss tribal law enforcement needs and to exchange ideas and develop a mutually agreed upon strategy for improving Homeland Security, meth eradication and law enforcement and public safety services on every reservation in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this action by the Tribal Budget Advisory Council is consistent with the current positions of NCAI on tribal law enforcement needs and is supported by the tribes who are members of NCAI.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby formally support the previously described May 2006 resolution of the Tribal Budget Advisory Council and directs its Executive Director to contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs to request an unsolicited grant or contract in the amount of \$200,000-\$250,000, or in such other amount as the Executive Director deems appropriate, and to upon receipt of those funds, subcontract with NNALEA to expand its past study to include all of the federally recognized tribes in the country who are currently responsible for providing law enforcement services on their reservations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director of NCAI shall also begin working with BIA to obtain the funding necessary to hold the 2006 Tribal Law Enforcement conference described in the Tribal Budget Advisory Council's resolution.

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

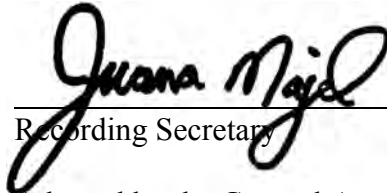
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2006 Mid Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Kewadin Hotel and Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on June 21, 2006 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2006 Mid Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians held from June 18-21, 2006 at the Kewadin Hotel and Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.