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THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SD-02-089

Title: Reauthorization of Money for Federal Hydropower Allocations Negotiations

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 and their way of life, 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 Federal Government has a trust responsibility to tribes that is a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation of the United States to protect tribal lands, assets, resources and treaty rights, as well as a duty to carry out the mandates of federal law with respect to American Indians and Alaskan Native tribes; and

WHEREAS, tribes are currently negotiating federal hydropower allocations from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA); and

WHEREAS, the negotiation process is both time consuming and expensive for tribes; and

WHEREAS, tribes seeking federal power allocations need to prepare Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) capability to negotiate power contracts; and

WHEREAS, if the Department of Interior reprogrammed money, then tribes could develop IRP's, tribal energy visions and practical strategic plans for the tribes' energy future; and

WHEREAS, tribes have recommended that the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) request that the Department of Interior make funds available to support tribal negotiations with federal power marketing administrations; and

WHEREAS, The Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) is a tribal organization composed of 48 federally recognized Indian tribes, collectively representing over one-half of all reservation lands and American Indians in the contiguous 48 states, four affiliate members of Canadian Indian First Nations and governed by a Board of Directors composed of the principal elected official of each member tribes; and

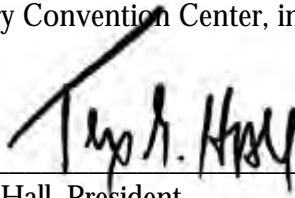
WHEREAS, the 48 member tribes of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes recently passed a resolution to supporting CERT's efforts to secure reprogramming of money for federal hydropower allocations from the Department of Interior.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support efforts to secure reprogramming of money for federal hydropower allocations from the Department of the Interior; and


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

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002 with a quorum present.


Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:


Juana Majel, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2002 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Convention Center, in San Diego, California on November 10-15, 2002.