



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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## RESOLUTION #SD-02-020

### Title: NCAI Support of the National Tribal Air Association

**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 quality of the air is basic to the quality of life of Indian people and the sustainability of tribal communities, cultures, subsistence ways of life, and economies of Indian Country; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) is to advance air quality management policies and programs, consistent with the needs, interest, and unique legal status of American Indian Tribes, Alaska Tribes, and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, the NTAA will advocate and advance tribal environmental, cultural, and economic interests in the development of air policy at all levels of government (tribal, federal, state, local, and international); promote the development, funding, and capacity building of tribal air quality management programs; promote and facilitate air quality policy and technical information that may include research, and scientific and medical studies; advance the recognition and acceptance of tribal sovereign authority by conducting effective communication and outreach to state, local, federal and international agencies, and the general public; and encourage and support appropriate consultation with all Tribal governments in accordance with tribal structures and policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians did support the efforts of the National Tribal Environmental Council to work with other tribal organizations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Tribal Operations Committee, as well as tribal elected leaders and environmental program staff to resolve and define the membership, mission, and governance of the air management organization, and to bring the organization into existence; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Tribal Air Association will work within the existing framework of the NCAI to address Tribal air quality management issues.

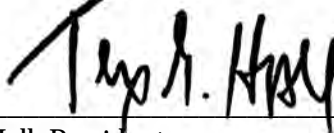
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby support in principal the activities, projects and programs of the National Tribal Air Association in its endeavors to address and affect tribal air quality management issues; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI does hereby support the responsibility of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to maintain its government to government relationship with tribes as well as maintaining its relationship with the National Tribal Air Association in fulfilling its mission and goals on behalf of Tribal air quality management; 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 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.