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THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SD-02-051

Title: Support for HR 5487, the Native Act to Transform Images in Various Environments (NATIVE)

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 use of names and symbols that are detrimental to Native Americans by non-tribal schools and colleges furthers the mistreatment and discriminative action against Native peoples, especially Native students; and

WHEREAS, the NATIVE bill seeks to remedy this situation by providing a vehicle through which Native people can assist such schools in changing their images and attitudes.

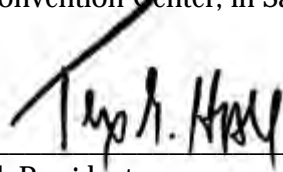
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support the NATIVE bill to establish a grant and education program, guided by Native people, to assist schools with changing their offensive names and symbols; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports the NATIVE bill to provide construction and renovation funding to both tribal and non-tribal schools and colleges in order for them to remove offensive American Indian-related mascots and slogans; 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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.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.