



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-03-022

**TITLE: Tribal Sovereignty and Softwood Lumber**

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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**, many of NCAI's members are involved in tribal forestry operations and a number are softwood lumber producers, directly injured and affected by softwood lumber from Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, Canadian Tribes receive no remuneration for forestry on their lands, despite constitutional protection and Supreme Court recognition of their land rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade (INET) has brought rights-based arguments that the non-recognition of their rights constitutes a subsidy, have been accepted by international trade tribunals; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. tribal revenues from forestry operations that directly support our tribal governments have been dropping, due to Canada providing subsidies to companies, who extract timber from the traditional territories of Canadian tribes, through their policies and forest management systems.

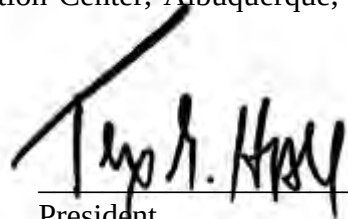
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI will work together with NCAI member tribes, Canadian tribes and INET to seek permanent tribal sovereignty over lands and resources and ensure fair remuneration for tribal proprietary interests in forestry operations through lobbying on the national and international level to ensure tribal participation in the political negotiations regarding softwood lumber.

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports and encourages members to make submissions and investigations regarding the level of injury incurred by U.S. tribes and request support and relief by both the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Congress.

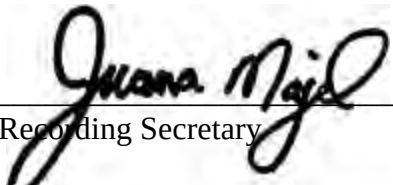
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 21, 2003 with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 17-21, 2003.