



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SAC-21-036

Amending and Updating NCAI Resolution #SD-15-024 and Supporting Tribal Disaster Resilience and Climate Change Principles

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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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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, NCAI Resolution #SD-15-024 was adopted and outlined eight tribal climate change principles; and

WHEREAS, over the past six years climate change has increased the threat of disasters to Tribal Nations, which include tsunami storm surges, increased droughts, increased wildfires, riverine erosion and flooding, and coastal surge flooding; and

WHEREAS, this 2021 amendment to NCAI Resolution #SD-15-024, recognizes the historic environmental threats to Tribal Nations and new environmental threats, exacerbated or caused by climate change, and the corresponding need for comprehensive tribal disaster resilience programming to address all environmental threats.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) amends NCAI Resolution# SD-15-024 to the following:

Strengthen Tribal Sovereignty in Response to Climate Change and other Environmental Threats

1. Federally recognized Tribes and other Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous communities must be partners with full and effective participation in assessing and addressing the problems of disasters and climate change at the local, regional, national, and international levels and must be accorded at least the status and rights recognized in the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international standards relevant to Indigenous Peoples.
2. Tribal Nations must have fair and equitable representation on all federal climate and disaster resilience committees, working groups, and initiatives in which states, local governments, and other stakeholders are represented.
3. The federal government should establish a high-level interagency tribal government task force to examine and propose solutions to close gaps across the federal agencies' relationships and programs with Tribes, and to develop, recommend, and implement tribal-specific solutions that enable the agencies to support and foster tribal disaster resilience and climate-resilient planning and investment.

Support Tribes Facing Immediate Threats from Climate Change and Other Environmental Threats

4. Indigenous Peoples must have direct, open access to funding, capacity-building, and other technical assistance, with their free, prior and informed consent, with no non-federal cost shares to address the immediate and long-term threats from climate change and other environmental threats.

Ensure Tribal Access to Climate Change and Disaster Resilience Resources

5. Tribal Nations must have fair and equitable access to federal climate change and disaster resilience programs.
6. Tribal Nations must be made eligible for existing and future federal natural resource and disaster resilience funding programs for which states are eligible, but from which Tribal Nations are currently, or might be, excluded.
7. A fair and equitable set-aside of direct monies or allowances must be made available for distribution to Tribal Nations through legislation, administrative actions, and existing and future federal natural resource and disaster resilience funding programs.

Traditional Knowledges, Disaster Resilience and Climate Change

8. Indigenous traditional knowledges, with the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples, must be acknowledged, respected, and promoted in federal policies and programs related to climate change and disaster resilience; and

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 by the General Assembly at the 2021 Annual Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held October 11-14, 2021, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Aaron A. Payment, Recording Secretary