



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #EWS-06-004

TITLE: Supporting a National Mandatory Program to Reduce Climate Change Pollution and Promote Renewable Energy

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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, scientific consensus has developed that carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere have a profound effect on the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 at the request of the Administration, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed and declared global warming a real problem caused in part by human activities; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 Third Assessment Report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the 2000 U.S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) First National Assessment indicate that global warming has begun; and

WHEREAS, 162 countries including the US pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Native people s have developed unique cultures based on the prevailing regional climate; and

WHEREAS, climate change is likely to have significant impacts on the availability of key food sources such as salmon, herring, whales, caribou, moose, seabirds and waterfowl, and will present serious challenges to subsistence ways of life in Alaska and other regions; and

WHEREAS, climate-related changes to the weather, food sources, and local landscapes undermine the social identity and cultural survival of American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, changes in climate will create new challenges for community health systems, rural infrastructure and economies; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference has filed a petition with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to protect their right to life and physical security, health, personal property, culture, land traditionally used and occupied, and means of subsistence; and

WHEREAS, warmer conditions projected for the central and western United States will lead to increased evaporation, especially in summer, that will dry summer soils and vegetation; and

WHEREAS, warmer summer conditions are likely to lead to lower river and lake levels in the northern Great Plains and Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, a number of tribal groups throughout the United States are in geographic areas that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, including the tribes in the Southwest region and along the Colorado River who are expected to suffer significant droughts, the Pacific Northwest tribes who are expected to suffer significant loss of fisheries, and the tribes in Florida who are expected to suffer from impacts to the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, unpredictable weather, snow, and ice conditions make travel and traditional hunting and fishing practices more hazardous and endangers lives; and

WHEREAS, actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy use, and saving money.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to move forward on a national , mandatory program to reduce climate change pollution and promote the development and adoption of renewable energy within a timeframe that prevents irreversible harm to public health, the economy and the environment.

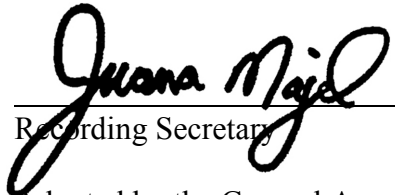
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was referred to the 2006 Mid Year Session by the Executive Committee during the 2006 Winter Session and adopted at the 2006 Mid Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Kewadin Hotel and Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on June 21, 2006 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2006 Mid Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians held from June 18-21, 2006 at the Kewadin Hotel and Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.