



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution # MKE-11-006

TITLE: In Support of the Office of Native Affairs and Policy's (FCC ONAP) Tribal Initiatives and Budget

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Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

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, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created the Office of Native Affairs and Policy (FCC ONAP) and reaffirmed its commitment to tribal communities by advocating for greater deployment and adoption of telecommunications services on tribal lands, and for the office to serve as the point of contact for federal agencies, and telecommunications industries in regards to consultation efforts with tribal communities on communications issues; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI has previously recognized the importance of the FCC ONAP at the 2010 NCAI Mid-Year Conference in Rapid City, SD through the passage of Resolution #RAP-10-006; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI provided testimony at the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation hearing, "Closing the Digital Divide: Connecting Native Nations and Communities to the 21st Century", held on April 4, 2011 supporting the critical role of the FCC ONAP in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, there is no line item currently in the FCC's budget for the FCC ONAP, and the FCC has never had a distinct, annually dedicated, budget allocated to FCC ONAP to cover staffing and service to Indian Country, and FCC ONAP will require an annually dedicated budget to ensure ongoing government-to-government consultation with tribal governments and organizations; and

WHEREAS, the FCC ONAP is responsible for developing and driving a tribal agenda and serves as the FCC's primary point of contact on Native issues in developing and implementing policies for assisting Native communities and ensuring that Native concerns and voices are considered in all relevant Commission proceedings and initiatives.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI reaffirms Resolution #RAP-10-006 in support of the FCC ONAP, and urgently requests full funding and staffing of the FCC ONAP through the creation of a supplemental appropriation for the FY 2011 budget due to the extraordinary number of rulemakings pending before the FCC that directly impact and effect the interests of Indian Country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports a permanent yearly budget in the amount of \$2 million for the FCC ONAP so that the office can cover operational costs, pursue its goals of communications deployment and adoption on tribal lands, and continue consultation with tribal governments; and

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

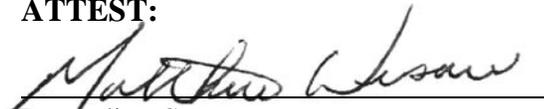
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2011 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Frontier Airlines Center in Milwaukee, WI on June 13-16, 2011, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary