



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #FTL-04-057

TITLE: Opposition to Depictions Offensive to American Indians in Federal Buildings

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, depictions offensive to American Indians should not be present in buildings owned by the federal government. Currently, American Indian federal employees are forced to endure depictions of American Indians as savages, murderers and sexual predators within their workplace. For example, several American Indian employees of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, D.C. are forced to endure paintings implying savagery toward Caucasian settlers as well as rape and violence toward women. Not only must EPA employees suffer through such objectionable material in their workplace, but the images are also in the very area where Tribal leaders must enter to conduct business in the EPA's Ariel Rios Building. These offensive depictions create an environment of racial harassment and must not be tolerated. Similarly, all such racially insensitive depictions of American Indians must be removed from buildings owned by the federal government to prevent the further oppression of American Indians in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, depictions offensive to American Indians in federal buildings impede a healthy government-to-government relationship between the United States and Tribal governments. These offensive depictions disrupt institutions and processes designed to support meaningful and respectful government-to-government dialogue and consultation processes; and

WHEREAS, American Indian federal employees have the right to work in a harassment-free work environment and there must be a cessation of discriminatory and derogatory practices against all people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby oppose the presence of depictions offensive to American Indians in buildings owned by the federal government; and

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SOUTHWEST
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Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

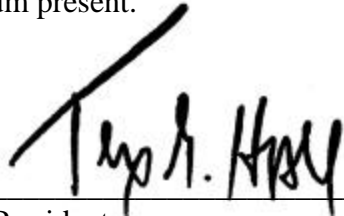
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson
Tlingit

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request a consultation meeting with the EPA Administrator and Administrator of the General Services Administration to discuss options for resolving the matter.

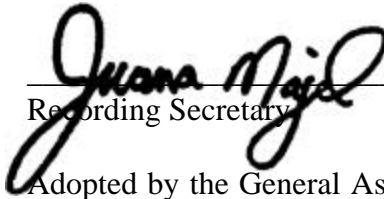
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 61st Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida on October 10-15, 2004 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2004 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held from October 10th to the 15th at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.