

December 11, 2005
Washington, DC

We, the delegates concerned about American Indian and Alaska Native Elders, recognize the federal-Tribal government to government relationship, but find no good reason to support the WHCOA resolutions which fail to address the federal trust relationship outlined in treaties and federal Indian law. We believe that the end result of voting for resolutions that do not address the issues brought forward by Tribes and American Indian and Alaska Native Elders across Indian Country over the past two years may be more damaging to the future of the wisdomkeepers in our communities. The time and energy put forward in numerous listening and solutions sessions produced several resolutions that specifically address the needs of AI/AN Elders. We invite other delegates who understand our concerns to join with us in finding a solution.

Native American Caucus Members and Friends from other delegations