



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-NICOA2010-005

TITLE: Moratorium in dumping hazardous contaminants on American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) lands by private and governmental agencies.

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, industrial nations produce dangerous by-products from manufacturing commodities for human usage, and the United States of America is one nation that produces exceedingly high amounts of insidious contaminants ranging from spent nuclear fission materials to oil spillages to chemical contamination of groundwater with the most dangerous of all contamination is mining and fabrication of nuclear fuels, which produces a variety of hazardous by products. The mining and enrichment of uranium have threatened human and biotic life on AI/AN lands; and

WHEREAS, there are still thousands of abandoned mines, tons of unprotected and unsecure mine waste, and millions of gallons of waste liquid on AI/AN lands; while the US Government is caught up in a bureaucratic maze to resolving these dangerous hazards that are contaminating AI/AN Indians; and

WHEREAS, air pollution from air-fire plants on or near the AI/AN counties dump pollutants contaminating chlorine gas and sulfur into the atmosphere; sulfur comes in contact with water, and acid rain is produced causing drastic environmental changes throughout the country; pollutants near AI/AN counties come from testing of chemical and biological weapons and incineration of nerve gas; temporary storage of high-level nuclear waste on AI/AN lands releases radioactive gases into the atmosphere and some of the waste products, in the form of radionuclide, find their way into foliage; and these plants are consumed by animals; these animals are then eaten by AI/AN people without knowing that these animals' meat is contaminated by radio elements; and

WHEREAS, many of the rivers and subterranean aquifers are befouled by heavy metal compounds such as lead, Mercury, and Fluoride they produce chemical toxicity. Environmental studies show extraordinarily high doses of lead in drinking water in AN/AN land; and

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Juana Majel Dixon
Pauma Band – Mission Indians

RECORDING SECRETARY
Theresa Two Bulls
Oglala Sioux Tribe

TREASURER
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
William Martin
Central Council Tlingit & Haida

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Cara Cowan Watts
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Marcus D. Levings
Mandan, Arikara and Hidatsa Nation

MIDWEST
Matthew Wesaw
Pokagon Band of Potawatomie

NORTHEAST
Lance Gumbs
Shinnecock Indian Nation

NORTHWEST
Brian Cladoosby
Swinomish Tribal Community

PACIFIC
Don Arnold
Scotts Valley Band of Porno Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Scott Russell
Crow Tribe

SOUTHEAST
Archie Lynch
Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Robert Tippeconn
Comanche Nation

SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh

WESTERN
Irene Cuch
Ute Indian Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson Pata
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

WHEREAS, recent studies also indicates presence of pharmaceutical drugs such as antidepressants , anticonvulsant, and anti-cancer drugs at toxicologically significant levels in water consumed by AI/AN and a great portion of these chemicals enter the human chain causing gradual or fulmination of poisoning and other health complications; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a moratorium be placed on dumping hazardous contaminants on AI/AN tribal lands by private and governmental agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NICOA until it is withdrawn for modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.

President

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary