



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SAC-06-###

TITLE: TO PROTECT THE WATERS OF THE GREAT LAKES AS WELL AS THE WATERWAYS RUNNING NEXT TO OR WITHIN TRIBAL LANDS AS NATIONAL RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Joe A. Garcia
*Ohkay Owingeh
(Pueblo of San Juan)*

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

RECORDING SECRETARY
Juana Majel
*Pauma-Yuima Band of Mission
Indians*

TREASURER
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
Mike Williams
Yupiaq

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Joe Grayson, Jr.
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Mark Allen
Flandreau Santee Sioux

MIDWEST
Robert Chicks
Stockbridge-Munsee

NORTHEAST
Randy Noka
Narragansett

NORTHWEST
Ernie Stensgar
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

PACIFIC
Cheryl Seidner
Wiyot

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Raymond Parker
*Chippewa-Cree Business
Committee*

SOUTHEAST
Leon Jacobs
Lumbee Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Steve Johnson
Absentee Shawnee

SOUTHWEST
Manuel Heart
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

WESTERN
Kathleen Kitcheyan
San Carlos Apache

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
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, unnatural depletion of the world's greatest source of fresh water would be a violation of the natural law in the Creator's plan; and there is a moral responsibility to protect the quality and quantity of this great national resource;

WHEREAS, there is ever increasing pressure to divert waters of the Great Lakes and other waterways on or near Tribal lands for use in other parts of the United States; and there is no single resource more essential to the physical and economic survival of the Tribes, their members and other local communities; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuous release of raw sewage and other pollutants into the waters of the Great Lakes system as well as the waterways that run next to or within Tribal lands; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the proposition that the governments of the United States and Canada negotiate a treaty designed to virtually stop large-scale diversions of water out of the Great Lakes region and that the United States government protect all waterways connected to or running within Tribal lands as natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and those states and provinces abutting the Great Lakes region or any other Tribal lands across the US adopt legislation that commits to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of the ecosystem and pledge to work together to clean up pollutants and other damage to these great waters.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2006 63rd Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California on October 1-6, 2006 with a quorum present.

President

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary