



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #PSP-09-022

TITLE: Support for Permanent Historic Preservation Funding

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 proposed legislation, H.R. 3534 also referred to as the CLEAR ACT bill, sponsored by Rep. Rahall supports many issues, including proposed changes to the development of federal energy resources; and Title IV of the bill proposes permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Fund has long been considered a “sister fund” to the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and

WHEREAS, both funds follow the same principles, using revenues from non-renewable resources such as oil and gas to enhance and preserve other non-renewable resources such as cultural and historic resources and the land; and

WHEREAS, since it’s inception in 1976, the Historic Preservation Fund has been appropriated only around half of its authorized level of \$150 million; and

WHEREAS, there are recent efforts to convert the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Funds to true funds, such as Mo Udall’s American Heritage Trust and the Don Young and George Miller’s Conservation and Reinvestment Act, set examples of what can be beneficial for setting tribal partnerships; and

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WHEREAS, historic preservation IS community development, as preservation revitalizes existing communities and promotes sustainability by providing incentives for people to live where the infrastructure exists rather than building on open land, therefore, saving our natural resources, and since 1977, nearly 200,000 low and moderate housing units were created utilizing historic buildings and existing infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation IS economic development, an example set forth in 2008 when the Historic Preservation Fund created approximately 67,700 jobs and prompted \$5.64 billion of private investment through the Rehabilitation Tax Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support tribal interests in historic preservation and conservation funding opportunities that culturally and economically assist tribal communities and partnerships; and

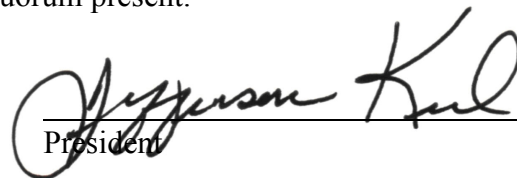
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI respectfully urges the President of the United States, the United States Congress, as well as federal and state agencies to invest in the preservation and protection of non-renewable cultural and historic resources in Indian Country and the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI support the inclusion of permanent funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) in the proposed H.R. 3534, CLEAR ACT bill; 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 2009 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Palm Springs Convention Center in Palm Springs, California on October 11-16, 2009, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary