



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PDX-20-002

TITLE: Calling on Congress to Enact a Truth-In-Advertising Law Prohibiting Businesses and Organizations from Falsely Representing Themselves as being Indian/Native American/Indigenous Businesses and Organizations

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Fawn R. Sharp
Quinault Indian Nation

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Aaron Payment
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

RECORDING SECRETARY
Juana Majel-Dixon
Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians

TREASURER
Shannon Holsey
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
Rob Sanderson, Jr.
Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Norman Hildebrand
Wyandotte Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Larry Wright, Jr.
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

MIDWEST
Rebecca Crooks-Stratton
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

NORTHEAST
Tina Abrams
Seneca Nation of Indians

NORTHWEST
Leonard Forsman
Suquamish Tribe

PACIFIC
Erica Mae Macias
Cahuilla Band of Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
MARK POLLOCK
Blackfeet Nation

SOUTHEAST
Nancy Carnley
Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe of Alabama

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Robert Tippeconnie
Comanche Nation

SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

WESTERN
Amber Torres
Walker River Paiute Tribe

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
KEVIN ALLIS
FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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 Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 was passed prohibiting misrepresentation in the marketing of Indian arts and crafts products within the United States to help protect American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) artisans and craftsman by making it illegal for non-AI/ANs to claim, or in any way represent, that their artwork was created by an AI/AN; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 defines the term 'Indian tribe' to mean (A) any Indian tribe, band, nation, Alaska Native village, or other organized group or community which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians; or (B) any Indian group that has been formally recognized as an Indian tribe by a State legislature or by a State commission or similar organization legislatively vested with State tribal recognition authority (18 U.S.C. § 1159(c)(3)); and

WHEREAS, there are hundreds, if not thousands of private businesses and non-profit organizations marketing and promoting themselves as AI/AN organizations often without a single owner, board member or employee being AI/AN; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues, grants, and donations are being generated thru this misrepresentation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) calls on Congress to enact legislation that will ensure truth-in-advertising of businesses and organizations that represent themselves as American Indian and Alaska Native; 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 2020 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held Nov 8, 2020 - Nov 13, 2020, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary