

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS**

**RESOLUTION #**

Title: Directive to Prepare Study on Changing Legal Structure of NCAI to  
Inter-Tribal Treaty Organization

**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, all 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 welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the oldest and largest national Indian organization, established in 1944 and comprised of representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and local Tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, the defense and promotion of tribal sovereignty are primary goals and objectives of NCAI; and

**WHEREAS**, NCAI organized as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Oklahoma. This form of organization has provided and may continue to provide a useful legal structure for NCAI to carry out its operations. However, incorporation under the laws of a state is not completely consistent with the inherent sovereign status of the Indian nations that comprise NCAI;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians directs its President, with the assistance of the Executive Director and such NCAI staff and consultants as they deem appropriate, to study changing the legal structure of NCAI from a state chartered corporation to an inter-tribal treaty organization, or in the alternative utilizing both forms of organization;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCAI's President is directed to present a written report on this study at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the \_\_\_\_\_ Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the \_\_\_\_\_, in Spokane, Washington, with a quorum present.

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President

**ATTEST:**

Recording Secretary