



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-026

TITLE: Request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Respond to and Assist Native American and Alaska Native Communities with Disaster Relief Efforts

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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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for ensuring that the United States, including the federally-recognized tribes located therein, is prepared for natural and manmade disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Havasupai Tribe is a federally-recognized Indian tribe located within the United States; and

WHEREAS, "In the spirit of community, FEMA commits itself to building a strong and lasting partnership with American Indians and Alaska Natives to assist them in preparing for the hazards they face, reducing their disaster vulnerabilities, responding quickly and effectively when disasters strike, and recovering in their aftermath" (FEMA, "FEMA Tribal Policy," (Sept. 25, 1998)); and

WHEREAS, the remote location of most tribal communities place tribes at a disproportionate risk for serious and long-term harm from natural and manmade disasters; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2010 through October 5, 2010, heavy rains resulted in significant flooding on the Havasupai Reservation and 3 major surges of water arrived in Supai Canyon, that resulted in the evacuation of 143 tourists out of the Canyon; and

WHEREAS, this flooding has caused disastrous conditions in the Havasupai Reservation, including severe damage to homes, bridges, campgrounds and trails, with such damage threatening the health, safety and welfare of visitors, Tribal members, and local residents; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of disasters, like the one recently experienced by the Havasupai Tribe, the health, life, safety, and financial welfare of the persons and property on tribal lands, require remediation, recovery and disaster services of the United States more so than most state and local governments due to their isolated location and lack of financial resources; and

WHEREAS, FEMA has developed a policy in which it has dedicated itself to building strong, effective relationships with Native American and Alaskan Native Tribal communities by helping those communities prepare for, recover from, mitigate and respond to natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, FEMA has not provided the Havasupai Tribe with proper assistance required by law; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI urges FEMA to respond to the Havasupai Tribe’s request for immediate assistance, to address the needs of the Tribe, and other similarly situated tribal communities affected by natural and manmade disasters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency fulfill its legal obligation to assist Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments before, during and after natural and manmade disasters and that such agency responses take into account the remote location of most Indian tribes, which places tribes at a disproportionate risk for serious and long-term harm from natural and manmade disasters; and

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

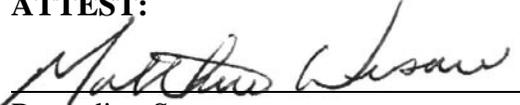
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 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