

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF THE
FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION**

WHEREAS, This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act; and,

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes generally authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and the benefit of the tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and,

WHEREAS, The museums and science industries active in the country today continue in their efforts to assert control over the earthly remains, burial property and funerary objects of indigenous peoples throughout this country unmindful of the cultural and spiritual values of the Indigenous Nations who oppose this insensitive and brutal treatment of their dead; and,

WHEREAS, The efforts of the science community have resulted in illegal, unauthorized collection, storage and manipulation of bone collagen for the purpose of extracting Native DNA, a practice which destroys the human remains of our ancestors; and,

WHEREAS, This illegal collection, study and destructive analysis of Native DNA is said to be justified by the need to determine the Tribal Affiliation of Native remains currently in the possession of universities, museums and federal agencies; and,

WHEREAS, DNA testing cannot establish tribal identity of Native remains because cultural affiliation is a cultural concept. Tribes are not like purebred breeds of cattle, with pure genetic histories. Our oral histories reflect intermarriage with many other tribes, thus Native populations cannot be considered genetically homogenous and we are independent tribal nations; and,

WHEREAS, Genetic analysis cannot determine an individuals cultural or tribal affiliation, and therefore any analysis of our ancestors can be inferred as a ploy by the scientific community to keep our ancestors remains for study and if a particular agency says our ancestors are not our ancestors based on misleading and unproven scientific studies, and concludes that we cannot establish a claim to our dead, then those ancestors will be kept by that agency and subjected to further destructive analysis; and,

WHEREAS, The Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes representing the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations, does categorically oppose the collection, storage, manipulation and reproduction of DNA from the human remains of our ancestors; and,

WHEREAS, The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations reaffirms its opposition to any study of our ancestors earthly remains, as this study violates our original instructions and teachings about the treatment of our dead; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations do hereby go on record in support of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribes in its testimony against the destructive DNA testing, collection and study of our ancestors and we also support Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribes who are requesting the repatriation of our ancestors, which testimony was delivered to the NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) Review Committee at its April 2000 meeting in Juneau, Alaska.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council is composed of 7 members of whom 5 constitute a quorum, 7 were present at a Special Meeting, thereof duly called, notice, convened, and held on the 3rd day of April, 2000; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 7 members 0 members opposed 0 members abstained, 0 members not voting and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Chairman: (voting) (not voting)

Dated this 3rd day of April 2000.

Daylon Spotted Bear
Secretary, Tribal Business Council

Attest:

[Signature]
Chairman, Tribal Business Council