

**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 National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the oldest and largest organization of Indian Nations in the United States, founded in 1944 and representing more than 220 sovereign Indian Nations; and

WHEREAS, NCAI is looked to by Congress, the President and the Executive Branch as providing a major voice expressing the concerns of Indian Nations about the policy of the Federal government towards the Indian Nations and their members; and

WHEREAS, There are a great many issues affecting Indian Nations in the 21st century for which strong leadership is needed -- from self-determination and self-governance issues to health care, housing, education, economic development, infrastructure, protection of our children, protection of our environment, protection of cultural resources, energy development, transportation and trust assets management, among others; and

WHEREAS, Among the most important issues for which strong and effective leadership is critical is protection and enhancement of our inherent sovereignty as Indian Nations; yet, in recent years, the United States Supreme Court and other parts of the Federal government have been undermining Tribal sovereignty and Treaties between the Indian Nations and the United States, making it ever more difficult for Indian Nations to protect and exercise sovereignty and to protect their Nations from undue Federal and state interference in their affairs; and

WHEREAS, NCAI is an organization that not only can help halt the erosion of our rights as Indian Nations, it can also help greatly to restore Federal recognition of our sovereign rights under our Treaties and our special relationships with the United States, but for this to happen, NCAI needs strong, determined, unwavering leadership, as it presents the views of Indian Nations on sovereignty and a great range of other issues to the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal government; and

WHEREAS, The principal spokesperson for NCAI is its President, elected by a vote of the Indian Nation members of NCAI every two years; and

WHEREAS, At this year's annual NCAI meeting, to be held in Spokane, Washington, on November 25-November 30, 2001, there will again occur an election for the position of President of NCAI, which is a two year term; and

WHEREAS, Tex G. Hall, the Chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, has already shown national leadership on several important issues, as a member of National Steering Committee on the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act; as National Co-chair of the Task Force on Land-into-trust Regulations proposed by the Department of Interior; as Chairman of the Board of the Native American Bancorporation which just last month opened its doors; as co-chair of the National Co-Chair of the BIA Budget Task Force for FY 2001 and 2002 and most recently as the Co-chair of the Economic Development Subcommittee of the joint BIA-Tribal Advisory Council for the FY 2003 Budget; as a member of the joint Tribal/BIA TPA Task Force; as a leader of the class-action effort against the Department of Agriculture to remedy past discrimination against Native Americans entitled *Keepseagle v. Veneman*, certified as a class action in September, 2001; as a member of the Board of Directors of the Indian Child Welfare Association; as a national leader on issues of housing, transportation, education, economic development and energy development; and as a leader on the international level in the development of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the establishment of a permanent forum on the issues of indigenous peoples at the United Nations; among other things;

WHEREAS, Tex G. Hall has shown regional leadership within the Great Plains Region as Chairman of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association; as the spokesperson for the Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota Indian Nations during an historic meeting with the President of the United States in May, 1999; as an advocate for Indian people on a regional, national and international basis for increasing economic development and tourism to take advantage of the celebration of the upcoming Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; as a representative of the Great Plains Region at numerous hearings before Congressional Committees during the 106th and 107th Congress; and was able to persuade his Congressional delegation of the need for a new nearly mile-long bridge on the Fort Berthold Reservation for which appropriations were awarded in 2000, one of only two such projects in the 106th Congress and the only such project on an Indian reservation; and

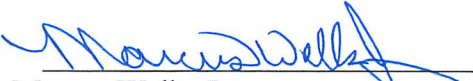
- WHEREAS,** Tex G. Hall is otherwise qualified to lead the National Congress of American Indians into the new millennium as an educator with a Master's Degree from the University of South Dakota; as a former Superintendent of the Mandaree Public School District; as a successful rancher; and as a member of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes since 1996; and
- WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes supports the candidacy of Tex G. Hall for the office of President of NCAI and will provide him support in that position for the next two years, knowing that as President, he will necessarily spend a great deal of time traveling to ensure that the voices of all Indian Nations are heard by the Federal government, states and the non-Indian public-at-large; and
- WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes supports the efforts of its Chairman to reach out to all Indian Nations, whether or not members of NCAI, in order to achieve as much unity as possible on issues of common concern to the Indian Nations within the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes supports the efforts of its Chairman to strengthen Tribal sovereignty and to strengthen the government-to-government relationship between each individual Indian Nation and the Federal government of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes recognizes that Tex G. Hall now devotes his entire energy to improving the quality of life of the members of the Three Affiliated Tribes and that if elected President of NCAI will be equally dedicated to working for solutions to the many issues and problems facing Indian Nations today;
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes, acting on behalf of the entire Tribe, hereby endorses Tex G. Hall for the position of President of the National Congress of American Indians and supports his efforts to become President of NCAI, knowing that the position requires tremendous dedication, energy, time and commitment of resources and that the position will mean that the Chairman will frequently be away from the Three Affiliated Tribes attending to issues of national importance to all Indian Nations; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes hereby encourages all Indian Nations to support the candidacy of Tex G. Hall for President of the National Congress of American Indians at the annual meeting of NCAI to be held November 25-30, 2001, and encourages all Indian Nations who are supporting Tex G. Hall for the position of President to be current in their dues to NCAI and to send a representative to vote for the position of President at the upcoming annual meeting.

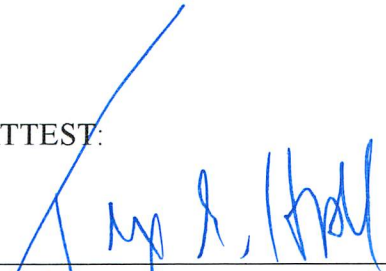
CERTIFICATION

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 whom 5 constitute a quorum, 7 were present at a Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 8th day of November, 2001; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 6 members, members opposed, 0 members abstained, 1 not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Dated this 8th day of November 2001.



Marcus Wells, Jr.
Secretary, Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:


Tex G. Hall
Chairman, Tribal Business Council