

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

A Resolution entitled, "Opposition to restructuring of the Indian Health Service"

- WHEREAS,** This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act; and
- WHEREAS,** The Three Affiliated Tribes Constitution authorizes and empowers the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Tribal Business Council to engage in activity on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and
- WHEREAS,** Providing health care to Tribal members is the number one priority to Native Americans throughout the United States, as in many Areas of the country, life expectancies are comparable to third world countries and rates of some diseases for the members of the Three Affiliated Tribes, such as diabetes, heart disease, some forms of cancer and accidental deaths are many times the national rate, and in the case of diabetes, are more than 15 times the national rate; and
- WHEREAS,** Provision of the health care to Tribal members is an obligation of the United States Government as contained in treaties, statutes and the overall trust obligation of the United States to Native Americans, who gave up their lands to allow the United States to exist; and
- WHEREAS,** The Indian Health Service, over the past 18 months, along with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of which it is a part, has been considering a plan of reorganization of its services to American Indians and is about to begin to start the reorganization effort at the headquarters of IHS in Rockville, Maryland, which will affect other IHS functions and offices throughout Indian country; and
- WHEREAS,** The plan for reorganization at IHS headquarters has not been adequately evaluated by Tribes and their members and efforts at any government-to-government consultation with Tribes as required by Executive Order 13175 on the newest version of the headquarters reorganization plan have been almost non-existent; and
- WHEREAS,** The Tribal Business Council has determined that the IHS and DHHS headquarters reorganization plan will reduce in size and close many IHS offices which deal with personnel, will reduce services to IHS offices, clinics and hospitals in the field, result in a substantial loss of funds for IHS, and will ultimately result in a substantial loss of access to IHS services for Tribes and their members, and will ultimately reduce the quality of health care provided to Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, There are also elements of the IHS restructuring plan which appear to violate legislation creating IHS and the various appropriations bills that fund IHS through the bill which includes the Department of Interior and related agencies, and which should require Congressional approval which has not yet been obtained; and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Business Council has determined that it should oppose strongly the reorganization plan as proposed by the Indian Health Service because it appears to be the start of the abandonment by the United States of its obligation to provide quality health care to American Indians, and to make its opposition known to the IHS Director, Dr. Grimm, as soon as possible;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Business Council hereby opposes the latest reorganization plan of the Indian Health Service and DHSS for IHS headquarters, on the grounds that there has been inadequate consultation on the new plan, that the plan will reduce IHS in size and close many IHS offices which deal with personnel, will reduce services provided by the IHS headquarters office to IHS offices, clinics and hospitals in the field, result in a substantial loss of funds for IHS, and will ultimately result in a substantial loss of access to IHS services for Tribes and their members, and will ultimately reduce the quality of health care provided to Tribal members, and because it appears to be an attempt to begin the process of abandoning the obligation of the United States to provide quality health care to American Indians; and

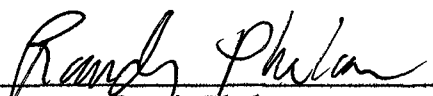
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tribal Business Council hereby urges all Tribes who utilize IHS services to notify their Congressional delegations as soon as possible of their opposition to the IHS restructuring plan, and to seek Congressional support for a freeze on all IHS restructuring efforts as soon as possible.

CERTIFICATION

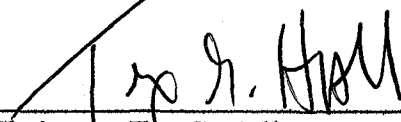
I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation hereby certify that the tribal Business Council is composed of seven (7) members of whom five (5) constitute a quorum, 5 were present at Regular meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened and held on the 8th day of January, 2003, that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 5 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 8th day of January, 2003.


Secretary, Randy Phelan
Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:


Chairman, Tex G. Hall
Tribal Business Council