



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

A Resolution Entitled: *“In Support of Continued Funding and Reauthorization of the Native American Document Conversion Program”*.

**WHEREAS,** This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act and having adopted a Constitution and By-laws pursuant to said Act; and

**WHEREAS,** Article III of the Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes provides that the Tribal Business Council is the governing body of the Tribes; and

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

**WHEREAS,** the Native American Document Conversion Program (NADCP) is a federal program whose intent was to assist Native American information technology companies in providing data conversion and management services to the Department of Defense; and

**WHEREAS,** NADCP was created by the U.S. Congress to demonstrate that information technology can not only promote the military readiness of the United States but could be used to create meaningful employment in the ever growing area of technology based services to remote Indian Reservations, Alaska Native Villages and Native Hawaiian Homesteads that suffer from endemic unemployment in excess of 50%; and

**WHEREAS,** By utilizing data transfer technology that could bridge the geographic and technological divide facing our remote native communities, native information technology companies were created that would directly benefit from the lower infrastructure costs created by the technology and capitalize on our ever-increasing pool of computer trained individuals in the communities which they serve; and

**WHEREAS** MHA Systems, an information technology firm wholly owned by the Three Affiliated Tribes, is a member of the Intertribal Information Technology Company (IITC), a consortium of eight Tribal, two Native Alaskan and one



Native Hawaiian information technology firms that provide data conversion services to the four branches of the military under the NADCP;

**WHEREAS,** Collectively the native information technology companies that comprise the Intertribal Information Technology Company (IITC) employ over three hundred Native Americans through the United States and in North Dakota alone, MHA Systems (Fort Berthold) and Chippewa Tribal Industries (Turtle Mountain) typically employ fifty Native Americans during peak production that collectively earn over \$1.3 million in wages each year; and

**WHEREAS,** MHA Systems has used its revenue from contracts under NADCP to not only provide well paying jobs on the Fort Berthold Reservation but has reinvested its earning to increase its ability to provide data conversion services including \$700,000 in its technology center and over \$150,000 on computer and technology upgrades; and

**WHEREAS,** in order for tribal information technology firms like MHA Systems to continue to operate, the NADCP must receive continued full funding to not only provide benefits to the Department of Defense but to also fully carry out the intent of the Congress of providing meaningful employment opportunities in technology based industries for disenfranchised native communities throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** the NADCP not only requires continued full funding in the next budgetary cycle but also requires a reauthorization so that the work that has been undertaken by the native information technology firms can continue for the benefit of our U.S. Military and our native communities; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Three Affiliated Tribes respectfully requests the Honorable Senator Byron Dorgan to provide his assistance and support in the continued funding and reauthorization of the Native American Document Conversion Program to assist our North Dakota and other tribal information technology companies in providing needed data conversion services to the Department of Defense; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** as the continued funding and reauthorization of the Native American Document Conversion Program is of such great importance to the Three Affiliated Tribes and MHA Systems, we would also request a meeting with you and your staff to provide detailed economic and technical information to emphasize the impact the NADCP has had on the Fort Berthold Reservation and through the native communities in the United States.



**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, 5 were present at a Regular Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2008; 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2008.

**ATTEST:**

Acting Tribal Secretary, Mervin Packineau  
Tribal Business Council  
Three Affiliated Tribes

Tribal Chairman, Marcus Wells Jr.  
Tribal Business Council  
Three Affiliated Tribes