



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

A Resolution entitled, "Appointing George Abe and the TAT Legal Department as The Three Affiliated Tribes' Point of Contact for the Director and Staff of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations"

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, The Constitution of the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation (MHA Nation) generally 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 MHA Nation and of the enrolled members thereof; and,

WHEREAS, Article III of the Constitution provides that the MHA Nation Business Council is the governing body; and,

WHEREAS, The Court Approved Settlement in the Cobell v. Salazar case provided for the creation of a \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund and charged the Department of the Interior with using those monies to consolidate fractionated interests in trust land; and

WHEREAS, To achieve this objective, the Secretary of the Interior created the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program); and

WHEREAS, That Buy-Back Program has been directed, by the Secretary of the Interior, to focus its initial attention on acquiring fractionated interests on the forty (40) reservations which have the largest number of fractionated parcels, one of which is the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, To implement this approach, the Buy-Back Program has established initial purchase ceilings for each of those forty (40) reservations. This was done using a formula which took into consideration three factors: the total number of purchasable fractionated interests within the reservation, the number of fractionated tracts within the reservation, and the number of acres related to those fractional interests; and

WHEREAS, Applying this formula, the Buy-Back Program has determined that the initial purchase ceiling for the Fort Berthold Reservation will be \$56,602,000; and



WHEREAS, To expedite its purchase efforts, the Buy-Back Program has offered the Federally Recognized Tribes on each of those forty (40) reservations the opportunity to participate in the Program's land consolidation efforts by, among other things, consulting with the Program on the approach the Program will use to implement its work on their respective reservations and by assisting the Program in its outreach to tribal members; and

WHEREAS, In March of 2014, the MHA Nation submitted a letter to the Program advising it that the MHA Nation wished to participate with the Buy-Back Program and on its efforts on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. The Program acknowledged receipt of that letter in May of 2014; and

WHEREAS, As an initial step, the Buy-Back Program has requested that the Tribe name an initial tribal point of contact to serve as a liaison between the Buy-Back Program's staff and the Tribal Business Council until a more formal working relationship can be established between the Program and the Tribe through the negotiation and execution of a Cooperative Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Council has determined that appointing such an initial point of contact is in the best interest of the Tribe and has determined that George Abe and the Legal Department have the knowledge and skill to serve in this position.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation hereby appoints George Abe and the Three Affiliated Tribes Legal Department to serve as its initial Tribal liaison between the Director and staff of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations and the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes. George Abe and the Three Affiliated Tribes Legal Department are authorized to represent the Tribe during involvement in the Buy-Back Program. The Tribe will notify the Buy-Back Program in writing of any changes to the Tribe's point of contact.

(SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW)



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 Regular Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 9th day of November 2016; 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 [X] voting. [] not voting.

Dated this 9th day of November 2016.

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Fred Fox in black ink.

Tribal Secretary, Fred Fox
Tribal Business Council
Three Affiliated Tribes

Handwritten signature of Mark N. Fox in black ink.

Tribal Chairman Mark N. Fox
Tribal Business Council
Three Affiliated Tribes