

**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 benefit of the Tribes and of the enrolled members thereof; and
- WHEREAS,** Four Bears Bridge crosses the Missouri River near New Town, North Dakota, and links the eastern and western parts of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** The Four Bears Bridge is a vital part of North Dakota State Highway 23, which is, among other things, a major farm to market and east-west connecting route for a number of communities in northwest North Dakota and is the only bridge over the Missouri River within a distance of more than 140 miles along the river; and
- WHEREAS,** Four Bears Bridge was made necessary by the construction of Garrison Dam, and the resulting creation of the Lake Sakakawea reservoir behind it; and
- WHEREAS,** As a part of the Garrison Dam project, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed Four Bears Bridge in 1952, using as its center spans a bridge originally constructed in 1932 that had previously crossed the Missouri River near the now submerged town of Elbowwoods, North Dakota; and
- WHEREAS,** Because the older part of the Four Bears Bridge had a narrow usable bridge only 22 feet wide, the entire bridge deck of Four Bears Bridge was made 22 feet wide, and thus Four Bears Bridge was obsolete when originally put in place more than 40 years ago; and
- WHEREAS,** According to recent traffic counts by the State of North Dakota, Four Bears Bridge carries traffic of more than 5,000 cars, trucks and buses per day; and
- WHEREAS,** Because of its narrow width and frequent use, the bridge has become a major safety hazard for vehicles of all kinds which travel across it, and also creates major traffic delays when large vehicles crossing it must occupy more than the narrow lane allocated for each direction of traffic on the bridge; and
- WHEREAS,** The North Dakota Department of Transportation, responsible for maintenance of the Four Bears Bridge, has determined that in order to keep the bridge at all usable, major maintenance and repair must be performed on the bridge within a few years at a cost of approximately \$8,000,000, which funds are not available to the State of North Dakota at the present time; and

WHEREAS, What is needed is a new bridge, meeting present day safety standards, that will meet the needs of all who use the bridge for many years to come;

WHEREAS, The Three Affiliated Tribes believes that the Four Bears Bridge should remain a project feature of the Garrison Dam project and should be the responsibility of the Federal government to replace;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council hereby requests that in recognition of the responsibility of the Federal government in creating a need for the Four Bears Bridge, and in recognition of the need for safe travel across our highways, and with due regard to the responsibility of the State of North Dakota to maintain the present Four Bears Bridge, the United States Congress authorize and appropriate sufficient funds for the construction of a new bridge across the Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea near the site of the present Four Bears Bridge, and that this authorization and appropriation be made as soon as possible; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Business Council hereby urges the 55th Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota, now in session, to adopt a joint resolution urging the Federal government to appropriate as quickly as possible sufficient funds for the construction of a new bridge across the Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea near the site of the present Four Bears Bridge.


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 16th day of January, 1997; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such Meeting by the affirmative vote of 6 members, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 1 members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Dated this 16th day of January, 1997.

Daylon Spotted Bear
Secretary, Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:



Chairman, Tribal Business Council