

**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,** Article IV, Sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes, in relevant part, specifically authorize and empower the Tribal Business Council to call special elections by a two-thirds vote thereof and to make rules and regulations governing all elections of the Three Affiliated Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article VI, Section 5(c) of the Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes specifically authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to administer any funds within the exclusive control of the Tribes and to make expenditures from available Tribal funds for public purposes of the Three Affiliated Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article I, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Three Affiliated Tribes authorizes and directs the Chairman of the Tribal Business Council, subject to the approval of the full Council, to appoint such standing committees, special committees, and other officers as the business of the Tribes may require, and it should be noted that non-Indians have been so appointed to serve on various governing bodies within the structure of the government of the Three Affiliated Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** Senate Bill No. 2154 (SB 2154) has been introduced in the Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota, which legislation would entitle the Three Affiliated Tribes and other North Dakota tribes each to a delegate to the North Dakota House and a delegate to the North Dakota Senate (a photostatic copy of which Senate Bill is attached hereto and made a part hereof); and
- WHEREAS,** SB 2154 further provides that the tribal delegates would serve as nonvoting members of the House and Senate, but would, however, be expressly authorized to serve on legislative standing committees and, with the consent of

the respective presiding officer of each chamber, would be further authorized to participate in floor debates in the House and Senate; and

**WHEREAS,** SB 2154 additionally provides that the tribal delegates would be elected for four (4)-year terms in tribal elections held on the respective North Dakota reservations and would be compensated and reimbursed for expenses by the respective tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes has reviewed, discussed, and fully considered the substance and intent of SB 2154 and has generally determined that SB 2154 would serve as a positive and productive vehicle through which to foster and augment the government-to-government relationship, cooperation, and coordination between the State of North Dakota and the respective Indian tribes of North Dakota; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribal Business Council finds that SB 2154 would additionally serve to complement two currently functioning and precedential initiatives developed between the executive and judicial branches of North Dakota government respectively and the North Dakota tribes, to-wit: the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, chaired by the Governor, and the Committee on Tribal and State Court Affairs, chaired by former Chief Justice Ralph J. Erickstad; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribal Business Council has concluded that SB 2154 would assure the Indian citizens of North Dakota the opportunity to provide more comprehensive and broadly received input in the development of North Dakota statutory law through direct and formal involvement of the proposed tribal delegates in the State legislative process within the procedural confines drawn in the Senate Bill; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribal Business Council is encouraged by the potential opportunity afforded by SB 2154 for (1) North Dakota legislators to develop an enhanced qualitative and quantitative understanding of the Indian people of North Dakota and their respective cultures, traditions, beliefs, values, and governmental structures and functioning, as well as the opportunity for (2) North Dakota tribes, through their legislative delegates, to improve and broaden their understanding of the structure and functioning of North Dakota government, including not only the legislative branch, but also the executive and judicial branches in the context of their involvement in

the substance and enactment of legislation introduced in the successive legislative assemblies;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes hereby declares its full and unconditional support of the substance and intent of Senate Bill No. 2154 and urges the passage of the SB 2154 in the North Dakota Senate and House of Representatives.

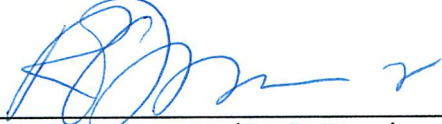
**C E R T I F I C A T I O N**

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, 6 members were present at a Special Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1997; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such Meeting by the affirmative vote of 5 members, 1 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 1 not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1997.

  
Secretary, Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:

  
Chairman, Tribal Business Council