

**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,** A number of members of the Three Affiliated Tribes operate or have operated, or have wanted to operate and manage farms and ranches on land they own or lease located on or near the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** A number of these same members have had interaction with personnel and field offices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, particularly the Farmer's Home Administration and its successor agencies Rural Development and Farm Service Agency regarding borrowing funds for ownership of a farm or ranch, or operation of a farm or ranch, including emergency loans, since the inception of U.S. Department of Agriculture farm lending programs; and
- WHEREAS,** Reports have come to the Tribal Business Council for some time of discriminatory treatment of Tribal members by the USDA and its various agencies in the administration of its programs for which Tribal members may have been or are eligible; and
- WHEREAS,** While studies have been performed by the USDA that suggest changes in personnel and policies regarding treatment of Tribal members who apply for or who are receiving services from the USDA, a number of changes recommended by such studies have not been acted upon or have been made too late to assist Tribal members whose loans have been accelerated or who were not provided assistance concerning existing loans or who were not given consideration for loans or other services provided by the USDA in a timely manner; and
- WHEREAS,** The problem of past discriminatory treatment of Tribal members by the USDA is a matter of pressing urgency because many Tribal members are currently threatened by the USDA with foreclosure, loss of livelihood and loss of allotted trust land; and
- WHEREAS,** The Chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, on behalf of all Tribal members who have had interaction with the USDA concerning services that the Department provides, has filed a request with the Civil Rights Division of the Farm Service Agency, under letters dated February 1, 1999 and May 21, 1999, that an investigation be conducted of discriminatory treatment of all members of the Three Affiliated Tribes who have had interaction with the USDA since the inception of USDA farm lending programs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes hereby ratifies and approves the actions of the Tribal Chairman, Tex Hall, which request the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct a thorough review of any violations of the civil rights of Tribal members who have dealt with the USDA since the inception of USDA farm lending programs, including, but not limited to, the Chairman's letter of May 21, 1999.

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 were present at a Special Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 23rd day of June, 1999; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such Meeting by the affirmative vote of 6 members, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 0 members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 1999.

Dayton Spotted Bear
Secretary, Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:

Tex R. Hall
Chairman, Tribal Business Council