

**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,** The United States has a trust responsibility to the Indian Nations and their members for the protection and enhancement of their lands, resources and funds based on solemn Treaties, the U.S. Constitution, the laws of the United States and a long-standing relationship with the Indian Nations within the U.S. boundaries; and
- WHEREAS,** The trust responsibility is no less than that of an ordinary commercial trustee, who must abide by principles of common law holding the trustee to a high standard of fiduciary responsibility towards those whom the trust relationship is intended to benefit; and
- WHEREAS,** The U.S. has for generations failed to live up to the high trust standard imposed on it, and instead has allowed trust assets to deteriorate or be underprotected or underinvested; and
- WHEREAS,** The U.S. has proposed, under date of November 15, 1999, a change in its trust policy to Indian Tribes and Nations and their members, a set of broad trust policies towards Indian peoples that do not adequately represent the trust responsibility of the U.S. to Indian Tribes and peoples; and
- WHEREAS,** The U.S. has proposed that Indian Nations and Tribes respond to the proposed policy changes by December 24, 1999, an unreasonable short period of time to respond to such a major initiative from the U.S. Department of Interior;
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Three Affiliated Tribes, acting through its duly elected Tribal Business Council, hereby calls on the U.S. Department of Interior to provide a longer period of time, not less than six months, in which to allow full responses to be made by the affected Indian governments and their members to the proposed policy changes of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as stated in the proposed "General Trust Principles" set forth on November 15, 1999; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Three Affiliated Tribes, acting through its duly elected Tribal Business Council, hereby supports formation of a National Task Force to consider appropriate responses on a national basis to the Bureau's proposed policy changes to "General Trust Principles" set forth in the Bureau's memorandum of November 15, 1999, and further urges the Great Plains Regional Tribal Chairman's Association to establish a working group to develop responses to the proposed policy changes.

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, 6 were present at a Regular Meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 16th day of December, 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 16th day of December, 1999.

Daylon Spotted Bear
Daylon Spotted Bear
Secretary, Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:

Tex G. Hall
Tex G. Hall
Chairman, Tribal Business Council