

NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

The National Caucus of Native American State Legislators (NCNASL) is made up of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian State Legislators from 18 states and is organized to provide a forum for discussion, education and increased communication. Additionally, the NCNASL identifies and proposes legislation and administrative actions to eliminate barriers to achievement of a better quality of life for Native people.

WHEREAS the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 authorized \$7,200,000,000 in federal stimulus grants to develop access to broadband telecommunication technology across the country; and

WHEREAS most states are leaving the infrastructure portion of the grant applications to the telecommunication service providers and are instead focusing on building interest in, and the future sustainability of, broadband telecommunication service; and

WHEREAS in rural areas of the country, namely native communities, many people do not have equal access to broadband and do not know what information and services are available by computer; and

WHEREAS distance learning technology can aid students in rural areas in advancing their educational needs, including advanced placement classes; and

WHEREAS broadband can expand telemedicine and remote monitoring networks to allow consumers access to healthcare regardless of location including rural areas; and

WHEREAS an adequate broadband infrastructure is needed in providing telemedicine and making electronic health records usable; and

WHEREAS broadband promotes economic development and enables telecommuting, telemedicine, telepresence, distance learning and e-commerce; and

WHEREAS broadband in rural communities allows for home businesses; and

WHEREAS Native people are negatively impacted by the lack of broadband services which would advance their education, health and economic status as an underserved population; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS that the inherent sovereignty of Tribes as recognized through historical treaties and legal relationships that exist between Tribal Nations and the United States of America is undeniable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators requests and supports Congressional and state funding for broadband infrastructure in rural areas that benefit native communities.

Sponsored by: Rep. Karen Awana (HI), Economic Development Committee Vice-chair

Approved date is: September 25, 2009

Committee of Jurisdiction: Economic Development Committee

Certified by Committee Chair: Rep. Karen Awana (HI)

Certified by Caucus Chair: Rep. John McCoy (WA)

Ratified certified by: The NCNASL, September 25, 2009

Distribution List: **Members of Congress**
Administration