

# NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS

## RESOLUTION ON STATE ENERGY PROGRAMS AND SET ASIDES FOR TRIBAL ENERGY NEEDS

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** Indian reservations are the poorest communities with the highest unemployment rates in the United States; and

**WHEREAS** Indian tribes are the fast growing populations in the United States with half of their members under the age of 18 years; and

**WHEREAS** reservation homes are 10 times more likely to be without electricity than the rest of the United States; and

**WHEREAS** Indian tribes have hundred of gigawatts of energy and renewable energy potential that could theoretically meet most of the United States' demand for future energy; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Congress is seeking to pass new energy legislation under the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACESA) (H.R. 2454) and the American Clean Energy and Leadership Act (ACELA) (S.1462) that provides for State Energy Program set asides and assistance; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Congress has not provided tribes with comparable funding as existing state energy programs; for example, the Department of Energy has provided states \$7.2 billion in funding since 1975, including \$3.1 billion under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) (PL. 111-5) while the Tribal Energy Program at the Department of Energy has been provided \$22.5 million since 2002 and \$0 under the ARRA.

**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 BY** the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators that the State Energy Programs provisions and set asides under the ACESA

and ACELA support the continued development of tribal energy initiatives and projects for the benefit of tribal and native communities throughout the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all tribal and native representatives are encouraged to meet with state officials to offer assistance in helping states meet their work requirements and explore collaborative strategies wherever possible; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that legislative efforts are encouraged to focus on implementing policies and funding for the benefit of tribal and native communities.

**Sponsored by:** Rep. Christopher Deschene (AZ), Energy & Natural Resources Committee Chair

**Approved date is:** September 25, 2009

**Committee of Jurisdiction:** Energy & Natural Resources

**Certified by Committee Chair:** Rep. Christopher Deschene (AZ)

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

**Ratified certified by:** The NCNASL, September 25, 2009

**Distribution List:** **National Congress of American Indians**  
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