



National
Caucus of
Native
American
State
Legislators

c/o National Conference
of State Legislatures

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NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO IMMEDIATELY ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION ACT THAT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE UNIQUE SOVEREIGN STATUS OF INDIAN NATIONS AND ADDRESS THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF IILEGAL IMMIGRATION

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 National Caucus of Native American State Legislators was formed in 1992 and formally established in its current form in 2005, with the goals of increasing awareness of the diverse Native American cultures in the United States, encouraging open dialogues, understanding, and cooperation between state and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators has long sought to promote cultural understanding between American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian peoples and all other cultural traditions through recognition of the many contributions of minority cultures; and

WHEREAS the Arizona State Legislature and Arizona State Governor Janice K. Brewer enacted legislation that affects the sovereign Native American nations within the State of Arizona and adjacent to the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS issues related to immigration along the Mexico and United States border have been a major topic of discussion during the previous legislative session; and

WHEREAS one of the most striking impacts of illegal immigration directly involves the Tohono O'odham Indian Nation, which straddles the Arizona and Mexico border; and

WHEREAS illegal trafficking through the Tohono O'odham Indian Nation has resulted in destruction to its land and has negatively affected the plant life and wildlife in the area; and

WHEREAS illegal border activities have greatly increased costs to the Tohono O'odham Nation government due to increased apprehensions, narcotics seizures, trash clean-up, immigrant deaths, etc; and

WHEREAS illegal immigration activities along the United States and Mexico border have also negatively affected members of the Yaqui Indian Nation; Yaqui tribal members are no longer able to travel their historic route or have their families participate in ceremonies along the border without being detained and questioned regarding their legal status, or having their ceremonial items taken from them; and

WHEREAS bills to address illegal immigration introduced in the Arizona state legislature have failed to address the impact to Native Americans nations, including lack of recognition of tribal issued identification documents, accommodation for participation in religious ceremonies and family events, and the effects that migration across the border has on sacred sites, and

WHEREAS any comprehensive immigration legislation must address the situation concerning Indian Nations such as the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Yaqui Indian Nation, and Indian nations along the United States and Canada border, and their peoples and must accommodate open travel across the border for family and ceremonial purposes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS that the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators urges the United States Congress to immediately adopt a Comprehensive Immigration Act that takes into consideration the unique sovereign status of Indian Nations and the negative impact of illegal immigration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators further authorizes and directs the Chair of the National Caucus to do any and all things necessary and proper to carry out the intent and purpose of this resolution including transmission of the same to the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress.

Sponsored by: Representative Albert Hale (AZ), Senator Jack Jackson, Jr. (AZ)

Approved date is: August 3, 2011

Certified by Caucus Chair: Representative John McCoy, (WA)

Ratified certified by: The NCNASL, August 3, 2011

Distribution List: The President
Members of Congress
Other federal and state government officials as appropriate