



NATIONAL CAUCUS OF NATIVE AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATORS

RESOLUTION URGING AND SUPPORTING AMENDMENT OF THE STATE SHARED REVENUES DISTRIBUTION FORMULA LAWS TO INCLUDE INDIAN NATIONS

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 more and more commercial activity is taking place on Indian Nations and the economic benefits from these activities are becoming a crucial part of the retail and recreational portfolios of states across the United States; and

WHEREAS retail activities such as shopping, resorts, casinos, golf courses, hotels and other recreational destinations benefit all the residents of the areas where they are located, and generate large amounts of taxable sales; and

WHEREAS most sales on Indian Nations lands are taxed under state sales tax laws with a few exceptions such as sale transactions between tribal members; and

WHEREAS tax revenues collected on Indian nations accrue to the state general fund; and

WHEREAS the Navajo Nation alone contributes nearly \$20 million annually to Arizona's state tax revenue from economic activity that takes place on the Navajo Nation in connection with the many cultural and scenic attractions and from state taxes imposed on coal mines on the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS Indian Nations in Arizona contribute \$30 to \$40 million annually in state sales taxes to the state; and

WHEREAS many states share sales tax revenues with the localities where the taxable activity occurred; and

WHEREAS state shared revenue programs recognize the importance of diversity and the contributions of all sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS Indian Nations, however, are not recognized and treated contributing entities in the sales tax distribution formula laws for the distribution of state sales tax revenues; and

WHEREAS the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators supports and promotes fairness and nondiscrimination for all people residing in all states; and

WHEREAS repeated attempts by Native American legislators and others to amend state laws and, further, to include Indian Nations in the state revenue sharing distribution formula have not been supported by the states; and

WHEREAS economic activity on Indian Nations through increased tourism and commercial development will play an increasingly greater role in the overall financial well-being of states; and

WHEREAS the failure to recognize Indian Nations as contributors to the states revenue and the failure to share those revenues with Indian Nations on an equal basis with cities and counties amount to colonialism and discrimination, and harms the ability of Indian Nations to provide necessary government services and public infrastructure.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators hereby supports and urges amendments of state shared revenues distribution formula laws to include Indian Nations.

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