



National Native American Bar Association

RESOLUTION # 2011-3

TITLE: Support for Inclusion of Tribes in Climate Change Discussions

WHEREAS, we as directors of the National Native American Bar Association (“NNABA”) NNABA work to promote issues important to the Native American community and to improve professional opportunities for Native American lawyers, we do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, NNABA was founded in 1973 and serves as the national association for Native American attorneys, judges, law professors and law students, and NNABA strives to be a leader on social, cultural, political and legal issues affecting American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, United States Supreme Court decisions, and hundreds of treaties, federal statutes, and regulations all acknowledge the inherent sovereignty of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and recognize that they are distinct, domestic, sovereign governments; and

WHEREAS, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have a greater status than territories of the United States, because American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians retain inherent sovereignty which has never been extinguished; and

WHEREAS, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are impacted by the effects of climate change on their tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government designates representatives to participate in delegations in international climate change fora; and

WHEREAS, tribal participation is important in the discussion of climate change because of the impacts climate change has on tribal life and communities, and because American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have a special legal, cultural and spiritual connection to the land.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NNABA does hereby call on the United States Government to name tribal representatives to the United States’ delegations participating in international climate change fora and also to advocate and provide meaningful and effective participation in such fora by tribes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NNABA urges the Executive Branch to consult with American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians on climate change and to provide adequate and equitable financial and other support to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians for carrying out measures such as mitigating climate change, reducing green house gases, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, and adapting to direct impacts from climate and sea-level changes to their territorial and reservation land bases and resources, including with free and formal consent of tribal communities imminently threatened by erosion and flooding, the development and implementation of plans for permanent relocation.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NNABA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

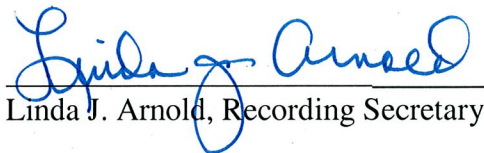
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting of the National Native American Bar Association, held at the Pueblo of Pojoaque on April 6, 2011, with a quorum present.



Patty Ferguson-Bohnee, President

ATTEST:



Linda J. Arnold, Recording Secretary