

2002
RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NIEA 33RD ANNUAL CONVENTION
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
November 2-6, 2002

SUMMARY

NIEA02-001 - Prohibit development in the calving and post-calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Submitted by: Patricia Baker (*Blackfeet/Mandan*)

NIEA02-002 - Resolution to establish the NIEA Endowment and recommending that \$10.00 of each NIEA registration fee be devoted and appropriated to the NIEA Endowment.

Submitted by: Submitted by: Ryan Wilson (*Oglala Lakota*)

NIEA02-003 - Eliminate Baseline Student Count Cap (Method B Fixed Based Funding Formula).

Submitted by: Submitted by: Carla Mann (*Blackfeet*)

NIEA02-004 - Resolution to support the establishment of the "American Indian University."

Submitted by: Submitted by: Ryan Wilson (*Oglala Lakota*)

NIEA02-005 - Resolution in support of Afterschool programs and a request for full funding appropriations of \$1.54 Billion, as authorized.

Submitted by: Carolyn Harry

NIEA02-006 - In support of asking the Administration (OIE & BIA) to request direct funding for Tribal Education Departments in the President's Annual Budget Request to Congress.

Submitted by: Melody McCoy (*Cherokee*)

NIEA02-007 - In Support of President George W. Bush Filling immediately the Position of Senior Advisor on Indian Education at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Submitted by: Melody McCoy (*Cherokee*)

NIEA02-008 - In Support of President George W. Bush reaffirming, continuing, and fully implementing Executive Order No. 13096, American Indian and Alaska Native Education.

Submitted by: Melody McCoy (*Cherokee*)

NIEA02-009 - Support for Revisions to the No Child Left Behind Act that are barriers to the learning, maintenance, and development of Native American Languages in Schools.

Submitted by: Dr. William Demmert (*Tlingit*)

NIEA02-010 - Reiterating Support for Federal Native American Language Education Funding and Policy.

Submitted by: Dr. William Demmert (*Tlingit*)

NIEA02-011 - Support for H.R. 5487, the Native Act to Transform Images in Various Environments (Native).

Submitted by: Cindy La Marr (*Pit River/Piaute*)

RESOLUTION #NIEA02-001

Title: PROHIBIT DEVELOPMENT IN THE CALVING AND POST-CALVING GROUNDS OF THE PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD

WHEREAS, The National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, NIEA as the largest nation Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, for thousand of years, the Gwich'in Athabascan Indians of northeast Alaska and northwest Canada, have relied on caribou for subsistence, and continue today to subsist on the Porcupine Caribou Herd which is essential to meet the nutritional, cultural and spiritual needs of their people; and

WHEREAS, the Gwich'in have the inherent right to continue their own way of life, and that this right is recognized and affirmed by civilized nations in the international covenants on human rights. Article 1 of both the International Covenant of Civil and Political rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights read in part: "...in no case may a people be deprived of their own means of subsistence; and,

WHEREAS, the health and productivity of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and their availability to Gwich'in communities, and the very future of their people are endangered by proposed oil and gas exploration and development in the calving and post-calving grounds in the Artic National Wildlife Refuge-Coastal Plain; and

WHEREAS, the entire Gwich'in Nation was called together by their chiefs in Artic Village June 5-10, 1988 to carefully address this issue and to seek the advice of their elders; and

WHEREAS, the Gwich'in people of every community from Artic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Beaver, Chalkyitsid, Birch Creek, Stevens Village, Circle, and Eagle Village in Alaska; from Old Crows, Fort McPherson, Artic Red River, aklavik, and Inuvid in Canada have reached consensus in their traditional way, and now speak with a single voice

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Congress and

President recognize the rights of the Gwich'in people to continue to live their way of life by prohibiting development in the calving and post-calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 1002 area of the Artic National Wildlife Refuge be made Wilderness to achieve that end.

Submitted by: Patricia Baker (Blackfeet/Mandan)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its November 2 – 6, 2002, convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico at which time a quorum was present.

Kerry Bird, President (2001 – 2002)

RESOLUTION #NIEA02-002

Title: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE NIEA ENDOWMENT AND RECOMMENDING THAT \$10.00 OF EACH NIEA REGISTRATION FEE BE DEVOTED AND APPROPRIATED TO THE NIEA ENDOWMENT

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, NIEA is the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

WHEREAS, In order for NIEA to effectively perpetuate its mission and advocacy agenda it must continuously raise funds, this includes, but is not limited to the following; the annual convention, securing grants, and establishing an endowment ; and

WHEREAS, previous NIEA Boards have approved the establishment of an NIEA Endowment, but had been unable to execute the creation of an NIEA Endowment; and

WHEREAS, the current NIEA Board has approved the establishment of a NIEA Endowment, and appropriated \$20,000 for its creation and initial funding; and

WHEREAS, the NIEA Board of Directors are committed to successfully establishing a perpetual funding source for NIEA initiatives and its mission; and

WHEREAS, through strong fiscal management NIEA has reached a level of financial stability that allows it to create the NIEA Endowment; and

WHEREAS, the NIEA Board is recommending that \$10.00 of each registration fee be devoted and appropriated to the NIEA Endowment; and

WHEREAS, the \$10.00 amount appropriated to the NIEA Endowment would increase proportionately as registration rises; and

WHEREAS, the NIEA Endowment will be a perpetual source of revenue for NIEA programming and new NIEA initiatives; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association membership does support the establishment of a NIEA Endowment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this NIEA Endowment support the mission of NIEA and new NIEA initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the national advisory board be established

comprised of NIEA members including past and present board members, and experienced fundraisers who will oversee the NIEA Endowment in an advisory role, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that beginning with the 33rd Annual NIEA Convention, \$10.00 of each registration fee will be appropriated to the NIEA Endowment, and **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NIEA Endowment exist perpetually, and that the NIEA Board actively pursue matching funds to augment the membership contributions to the NIEA Endowment.

Submitted by: Ryan Wilson (Oglala Lakota)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its November 2 – 6, 2002, convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico at which time a quorum was present.

Kerry Bird, President (2001 – 2002)

NON-EMERGENCY RESOLUTION #NIEA02-003

Title: ELIMINATE BASELINE STUDENT COUNT CAP (METHOD B FIXED BASED FUNDING FORMULA)

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, NIEA is the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, A student cap mandate and the elimination of the BIA/OIEP/JOM student certification process was instituted in 1995 which placed a budget freeze on the JOM Program, this methodology does not allow for any growth, expansions, or flexibility to add new JOM programs or to accommodate the increase for eligible Indian student population; and

WHEREAS, Continuance of the Method B Fixed Base Funding Formula for the Johnson-O'Malley program has not provided any offset funding increases in Congressional appropriations since 1995, hereto attached as "Exhibit A"; and

WHEREAS, Indian student populations have been increasing since the Method B Fixed Base Funding Formula was imposed on the Johnson-O'Malley program beginning with FY 1995, hereto attached as "Exhibit B"; and

WHEREAS, The JOM Programs nationwide have been forced to provide services for an ever increasing number of eligible JOM students which results in diminished services to its intended population; and

WHEREAS, there is no possibility of additional school programs to be added on for services that were not counted in the October 1994 student count; and

WHEREAS, The National JOM Association is aware that there are rural schools that would be adversely affected by an accurate student count but propose a solution that would be equitable for all students.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association strongly supports and endorses the recommendations to eliminate baseline student count cap (Method B Fixed Base Funding Formula)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association request the Bureau of Indian Affairs/Office of Indian Education Programs to include the “Method B Fixed Based Funding Formula” topic in a Tribal Consultation; and request Congressional delegation to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to collect student count information and lift the 1995 student cap mandate restore an equitable level of funds for the JOM Program; and request constituent organizations/Tribes to seek concurrent resolutions to eliminate baseline student count cap (Method B Fixed Based Funding Formula); and request congressional delegation to exempt, by placing a hold harmless clause within the legislation for those rural schools with a low JOM eligible student count from suffering a downward budget revision of their 1994 student count in the recount process.

Submitted by: Carla Mann (Blackfeet)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its November 2 – 6, 2002, convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico at which time a quorum was present.

Kerry Bird, President (2001 – 2002)

National Indian Education Association

RESOLUTION #NIEA02-004

Title: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE “AMERICAN INDIAN UNIVERSITY”

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, NIEA is the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Natives remain under-represented and misrepresented in institutions of higher learning throughout America; and

WHEREAS, this under-representation and misrepresentation of tribal America leads to a lack of educational and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the tribal college movement is entering its fourth decade of addressing this profound need; and

WHEREAS, after successfully demonstrating the effectiveness of tribal colleges, it is now time to elevate the tribal college movement to the next level; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium has voted to establish a

working committee to address the feasibility and creation of the “American Indian University”; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Inouye endorses the creation and establishment of the American Indian University, and has committed to sponsor legislation that will fund the American Indian University; and

WHEREAS, this proposed legislation will appropriate complementary, stand alone funding, in addition to what is annually appropriated to existing American Indian Higher Education Consortium colleges; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian University will be unique in the aspect that it is not affiliated with a specific tribe, and its enrollment will be open to Indians and non-Indians alike, as well as indigenous peoples of the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association does acknowledge a need for a tribally controlled university with all of the capabilities and resources of mainstream universities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association supports the concept of a tribally controlled university as a national institution; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Indian Education Association endorses the need for a feasibility and planning study that will lead to the creation of the American Indian University.

Submitted by: Ryan Wilson (Oglala Lakota)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its November 2 – 6, 2002, convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico at which time a quorum was present.

Kerry Bird, President (2001 – 2002)

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION #NIEA02-005

Title: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS AND A REQUEST FOR FULL FUNDING APPROPRIATIONS OF \$1.54 BILLION, AS AUTHORIZED

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, NIEA is the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association knows after school hours between 3 and 6 p.m. are critical as these are the hours that juvenile crimes peak for and against students, and the time that students are more likely to participate in negative behaviors; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association recognizes the benefits of Afterschool Programs, knowing Afterschool Programs provide our children a safe place to be afterschool, promote academic achievement, and help working families; and

WHEREAS, Afterschool Programs are vital to linking the traditional day school with afterschool programming, ensuring extended academic and enrichment activities; and **WHEREAS**, for Native American children, the academic and enrichment activities may be the only opportunity Native Children have to partake in cultural activities, lifeskills issues, and receive homework assistance that they otherwise, may not be exposed to; and **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Indian Education Association fully endorses and supports Afterschool Programs; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Indian Education Association hereby calls upon Congress to fully fund the authorized funding of \$1.54 billion for Afterschool Programs, as without the full funding, over 150,000 students will not be able to participate in afterschool programs.

Submitted by: Carolyn Harry

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its November 2 – 6, 2002, convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico at which time a quorum was present.

Kerry Bird, President (2001 – 2002)

NIEA EMERGENCY RESOLUTION #NIEA02-006

Title: IN SUPPORT OF ASKING THE ADMINISTRATION (OIE & BIA) TO REQUEST DIRECT FUNDING FOR TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS IN THE PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and **WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, over 110 American Indian tribes today have Tribal Departments of Education (TEDs), and these TEDs serve tens of thousands of tribal students in all levels of schools and education programs across the country, and

WHEREAS, NIEA has been very supportive generally of TEDs, and has advocated specifically in favor of creating and maintaining the two authorizations -- one through the Office of Indian Education in the U.S. Department of Education, and one through the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior -- for direct federal funding for TEDs in federal education legislation, and

WHEREAS, NIEA was successful in helping to keep both authorizations for direct federal funding for TEDs in the No Child Let Behind Act of 2001, and

WHEREAS, for many years, NIEA has dutifully tracked the annual President’s Budget

Request to Congress, and NIEA is aware that no Administration has ever requested direct funding for TEDs, either through the Office of Indian Education the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and

WHEREAS, given the important role that TEDs play in improving Indian education for so many tribal students, and given that Congress has clearly recognized the importance of TEDs by providing authorizations for their appropriations, it is unacceptable that Administrations continue to not request funding for TEDs, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association hereby requests the Office of Indian Education and the U.S. Department of Education to request funding for TEDs in the President's Budget Request to Congress at the level of \$5 million, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association hereby requests the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Department of the Interior to request funding for TEDs in the President's Budget Request to Congress at the level of \$5 million, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association hereby introduce a resolution at the National Congress of American Indian's 2002 Annual Meeting similarly supporting requests that the Administration include in the President's Budget Request to Congress requests for appropriations through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of Indian Education of \$5 million each to fund TEDs so that they can improve their services to tribal students.

Submitted by: Melody McCoy (Cherokee)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at is November 2-6, 2002 meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico at which time a quorum was present.

Kerry Bird, President (2001 – 2002)

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION #NIEA02-007

Title: IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH FILLING IMMEDIATELY THE POSITION OF SENIOR ADVISOR ON INDIAN EDUCATION AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians residing on and off their reserved or non-reserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the U.S. Department of the Interior

directly serves at least 55,000 tribal students nationwide, and **WHEREAS**, there is currently a vacancy in the position of Senior Advisor on Indian Education in the U.S. Department of the Interior, and this vacancy is hampering the ability of the BIA to effectively serve these tribal students, and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Indian Education Association hereby requests that President George W. Bush immediately fill the position of Senior Advisor on Indian Education in the U.S. Department of the Interior with a qualified Native applicant who can enhance the BIA's ability to serve tribal students, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Indian Education Association hereby introduce at the National Congress of American Indian's 2002 Annual Meeting a resolution similarly requesting that President George W. Bush immediately and properly fill the position of Senior Advisor on Indian Education in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Submitted by: Melody McCoy (Cherokee)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its November 2-6, 2002 meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico at which time a quorum was present.

Kerry Bird, President (2001 – 2002)

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION #NIEA02-008

Title: IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH REAFFIRMING, CONTINUING, AND FULLY IMPLEMENTING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13096, AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and **WHEREAS**, NIEA as the largest national Indian organization of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian educators, administrators, parents, and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Indian and Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established programs and resources to meet the educational needs of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiians residing on and off their reserved or nonreserved homelands; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, NIEA began a collaborative national effort among Indian educators and tribal leaders to improve federal Indian education policy among the many federal agencies that administer or oversee schools and education programs for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students, and

WHEREAS, the culmination of this effort was the issuance in August 1998 of Executive Order No. 13096, entitled American Indian and Alaska Native Education, which made the improvement of Native Education the highest national priority, and

WHEREAS, in August 2001, NIEA and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) wrote Secretary Paige in the U.S. Department of Education and Secretary Norton

in the U.S. Department of the Interior, and asked about the status of Executive Order No. 13096 under this Administration of President George W. Bush, and

WHEREAS, NIEA and NCAI have received an unsatisfactory response to their request about the status of Executive Order No. 13096, and

WHEREAS, NIEA continues to want to see that Executive Order No. 13096 is reaffirmed, continued, and fully implemented in consultation with Indian educators and tribal leaders,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association hereby ask Secretary Paige, Secretary Norton, and President George W. Bush to reaffirm, continue, and fully implement Executive Order No. 13096, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association hereby introduce at NCAI's 2002 Annual Meeting a resolution similarly requesting Secretary Paige, Secretary Norton, and President George W. Bush to reaffirm, continue, and fully implement Executive Order No. 13096 so that education will improve for tribal students nationwide.

Submitted by: Melody McCoy (Cherokee)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA Board of Directors at its November 2 – 6, 2002, convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico at which time a quorum was present.

Kerry Bird, President (2001 – 2002)

RESOLUTION #NIEA02-009

Title: SUPPORT FOR REVISIONS TO THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT THAT ARE BARRIERS TO THE LEARNING, MAINTENANCE, AND DEVELOP NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES IN SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1970 for; the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, currently the largest national organization of Native American (American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian) educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of Native Americans (American Indians, Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved and non-reserved homelands and Native Hawaiians); and

WHEREAS, the historical policy of the United States was to eliminate the use and development of indigenous (Native American) languages as the language of the schools serving Native America at the same time that the United States during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the policy of prohibiting the use of Native American Languages as the language of the school has resulted in reducing over 300 original Native American languages spoken at initial European contact to 175 languages used by Native peoples in

the United States at the end of the twentieth century (with only 20 still spoken by children); and

WHEREAS, many of the Native American languages are predicted to become extinct in the 21st century unless current trends are reversed (international Journal of the Sociology of Language #132, 1998); and

WHEREAS, in 1990 through the Native American Languages Act, the federal government reversed its policy of eliminating Native American Languages through the Native American Languages Act (NCLA) and established policy in support of education that reverses the loss of Native American languages, and

WHEREAS, both the intent and letter of NALA is to eliminate barriers to the use of Native American Languages in schools; and

WHEREAS, such barriers include requirements that in federally supported schools teachers, paraprofessionals and staff in schools using Native American languages meet training and certification requirements that Effectively deny traditional Native American methods of Native American language skill recognition; Often result in training in areas unrelated to Native American languages and cultures thus taking time away from, and undermining, effective preparation of Native American language teaching within authentic Native American cultural contexts; and Often subordinate, or even bar, the most skilled speakers of Native American language speakers from working in schools; and

WHEREAS, such barriers include requirements that in federally supported schools students taught through Native American languages pass examinations in English that Subordinate Native American language use in schools in their own homelands to English in spite of the NALA recognized right of Native Americans to conduct federally supported education entirely in their own languages; and Restrict those Native Americans wishing to teach both English and Native American languages to their children using nationally and internationally recognized effective methods for small indigenous population incompatible with national English assessments designed for other populations; and

WHEREAS, such barriers include federal requirement for yearly academic assessment of students following nationally recognized standards that Subordinate indigenous Native American standards as developed and expressed in indigenous languages to national standards that are developed and expressed in English by individuals without appropriate familiarity with the numerous distinct Native American languages and cultures; and Have the same effect as a required examination in English when a translation in the Native American language is not funded; and Further fail to properly represent academic attainment of students because they are not proven valid when translated (often clumsily) into Native American languages which are radically different from English in their structures, cultures, world views and social uses; and

WHEREAS, local attempts to comply with federally imposed barriers to use of Native American languages in schools while still teaching Native American languages weaken Native American language programs and divert extremely scarce human and material resources away from direct and authentic use and teaching of Native American languages in the schools; and

WHEREAS, American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities are actively pursuing preservation and use of their traditional languages in government provided education through mother tongue medium education immersion education,

bilingual education, Native American languages as courses, elders and other community people as teachers and paraprofessionals, and other methods that bring long neglected languages into the schools and classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the most successful programs to reverse language loss have been schools taught and administered entirely through Native American languages that operate from Native American cultural perspectives of education; and

WHEREAS, schools conducting strong Native American language and culture programs have found that their students do better (academically, socially, linguistically and culturally) than their peers in schools following national models of education external to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act includes barriers to all Native American Language programs in the form of training requirements, English testing requirements and academic assess requirements; and

WHEREAS, the barriers to Native American language use in education in the No Child Left Behind Act are especially insidious relative to schools that have been the most successful in reversing the loss and extinction of Native American languages,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association calls upon the United States Congress to address, as priority areas, the elimination of barriers to the use and teaching of Native American languages found within the No Child Left Behind Act.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association will send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to the members of the United States Congress.

Submitted by: Dr. William Demmert (Tlingit)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Albuquerque, NM, at which a quorum was present, during the meeting held November 2-6, 2002

Kerry Dean Bird, President (2001-02)

RESOLUTION #02-010

Title: REITERATING SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE EDUCATION FUNDING AND POLICY

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1970 for; the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, currently the largest national organization of Native American (American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian) educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of Native Americans (American Indians, Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved and non-reserved homelands and Native Hawaiians); and

WHEREAS, the historical policy of the United States was to eliminate the use and development of indigenous (Native American) languages as the language of the schools serving Native America at the same time that the United States during World War II; and **WHEREAS**, the policy of prohibiting the use of Native American Languages as the language of the school has resulted in reducing over 300 original Native American languages spoken at initial European contact to 175 languages used by Native peoples in the United States at the end of the twentieth century (with only 20 still spoken by children); and

WHEREAS, many of the Native American languages are predicted to become extinct in the 21st century unless current trends are reversed (international Journal of the Sociology of Language #132, 1998); and

WHEREAS, in 1990 through the Native American Languages Act, the federal government reversed its policy of eliminating Native American Languages through the Native American Languages Act (NCLA) and established policy in support of education that reverses the loss of Native American languages, and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the NIEA passed NIEA Resolution #99-04 calling for federal support for Native American language education funding and policy; and

WHEREAS, grassroots awareness of the need to address Native American languages in education has grown in American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities; and

WHEREAS, educational research has further strengthened the positive role of Native American languages in educational achievement and the special academic, linguistic, cultural, and social strengths of schools that make the most use of Native American languages;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association again calls upon the United States Congress to establish, as priority areas, specific funding and policy support for Native American language development with a special focus on those programs that make the most use of Native American languages within the context of exercising the rights expressed in the Native American Languages Act;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association will send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to the members of the United States Congress.

Submitted by: Dr. William Demmert (Tlingit)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Albuquerque, NM, at which a quorum was present, during the meeting held November 2-6, 2002.

Kerry Dean Bird, President (2001-02)

RESOLUTION #NIEA02-011

Title: SUPPORT FOR H.R. 5487, THE NATIVE ACT TO TRANSFORM IMAGES IN VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTS (NATIVE)

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) was established in 1969 for; the purpose of advocating, planning, and promoting the unique and special education needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS, NIEA, currently the largest national organization of Native American (American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian) educators, administrators, parents and students in the United States, provides a forum to discuss and act upon issues affecting the education of Native people; and

WHEREAS, through its unique political relationship with Indian nations and tribes, the federal government has established education program resources to meet the educational needs of Native Americans (American Indians, Alaska Natives residing both on and off their reserved and non-reserved homelands and Native Hawaiians); and

WHEREAS, the use of names and symbols that are detrimental to Native Americans by non-tribal schools and colleges furthers the mistreatment and discriminative action against Native people, especially Native students, and

WHEREAS, the Native Bill seeks to remedy this situation by providing a vehicle which Native people can assist such schools in changing their images and attitudes, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association supports the NATIVE Bill to establish a grant and education program, guided by Native people, to assist schools with changing their offensive names and symbols.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Indian Education Association supports the NATIVE Bill to provide construction and renovation funding to both tribal and non-tribal schools and colleges in order for them to remove offensive American Indian-related mascots and slogans.

Submitted by: Cindy La Marr (*Pit River/Paiute*)

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and passed by the NIEA membership assembled at its annual convention in Albuquerque, NM, at which a quorum was present, during the meeting held November 2-6, 2002.

Kerry Dean Bird, President (2001-02)