



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ANC-22-007

TITLE: Supporting Indigenous Safety through Opposing Man-Camps for Thacker Pass

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, in the 2014 Statement by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya observed reports by Indigenous women who have stated that the introduction of workers from extractive industries via man-camps, leads to increased sexual harassment and violence, such as rape and assault, in their communities; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women between 10 and 24 years of age and the fifth leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women between 25 and 34 years of age; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics published a study of rates of violence in the Bakken oil-producing region of Montana and North Dakota that found a 70% increase in violent crime corresponding to the growth of extractive industry in the area, with no such increase observed in adjacent counties without extractive industries; and

WHEREAS, this crisis must be understood as an ongoing impact of settler-colonialism and historic trauma; and

WHEREAS, the massacre of 1865 inflicted upon Indigenous Peoples at Peehee Mu'huh, by the United States cavalry, which is documented in Bill Haywood's book: the Autobiography of William D. Haywood, as part of a policy of dispossessing Indigenous Peoples of land in order to promote the extraction of natural resources and is linked to contemporary violence against Indigenous Peoples facing extractive industries; and

WHEREAS, environmental impact statements (EIS) in the U.S. are not required to include gender-based violence and reproductive justice analysis; and

WHEREAS, the injustices of Indigenous women are often not included from any so-called consultation processes; and

WHEREAS, page 139 of the final EIS for the proposed Thacker Pass Mine states, “Lithium Nevada Corporation (LNC) is not proposing to develop a man camp or develop worker housing”, yet a man-camp is being proposed, and this proposed labor force is male-dominated; and

WHEREAS, almost 301 native people from the Great Basin have signed a petition opposing the construction of a man-camp at Peehee Mu’huh; and

WHEREAS, the Great Basin Indigenous Women Rising Coalition recognized that colonial violence has been part of our Native History and are leaders in advocating for the prevention of this crisis as a top priority for all tribal leaders and councils.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is opposed to the construction of man-camps near Tribal Nations and calls on the Departments of Justice, Interior, and Health and Human Services, and related agencies, to increase safety for Native women in order to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCAI calls for the federal government to do an analysis of gendered-violence and the impacts of man-camps in all federal permitting for mines and all extractive projects, create additional education and economic opportunities for rural youth beyond mining, and to work with directly with Tribal Nations, communities and organizations to become better educated on the connection between extractive industries and gendered violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCAI calls upon the President to exercise their authority the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate and create a National Monument at Peehee Mu’huh; and

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

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Anchorage, Alaska from June 12-16, 2022 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Stephen Roe Lewis, Recording Secretary