

RESOLUTION NO. 74-13

COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

**A RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT DEVELOPMENT IN THE CALVING AND POST-CALVING
GROUNDS OF THE PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD**

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government in behalf of the Cherokee people;

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation is a Federally-recognized Tribal Nation with a historic and continual government to government relationship with the United States of America;

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation has a history of supporting other Tribal Nations including the Gwich'in Athabascan Indians of northeast Alaska and northwest Canada per Cherokee Nation Tribal Council Resolution No. 58-91 signed on July 1991;

WHEREAS, for thousands 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;

WHEREAS, the Gwich'in have the inherent right to continue their own way of life; and this right is recognized and affirmed by civilized nations in the international covenants on human rights. Article I of both the International Covenant on 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 its 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 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge - Coastal Plain;

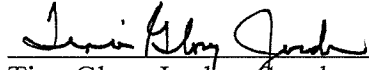
WHEREAS, the Gwich'in people of every community from Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Beaver, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Stevens Village, Circle, and Eagle Village in Alaska; from Old Crow, Fort McPherson, Arctic Red River, Aklavik and Inuvik in Canada have reached consensus in their traditional way, and speak with a single voice as they celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Gwich'in Steering Committee in Arctic Village, Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the United States Congress and President should 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; and the Coastal Plain area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge be made wilderness to achieve this end.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council does support permanent protection of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

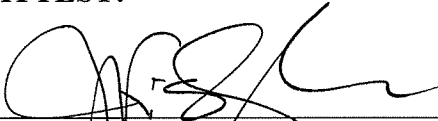
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the Cherokee Nation at a duly called meeting on the 16th day of September, 2013, having 16 members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of 16 yeas; 0 nays; 0 abstaining.



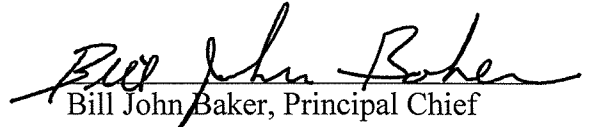
Tina Glory Jordan, Speaker
Council of the Cherokee Nation

ATTEST:



Jodie FISHINGHAWK, Secretary
Council of the Cherokee Nation

Approved and signed by the Principal Chief this 23rd day of Sept, 2013.



Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

ATTEST:



Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Secretary of State
Cherokee Nation

CHEROKEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA

COUNCIL
OF THE
CHEROKEE NATION

RESOLUTION NO. 58-91

A Resolution to Prohibit Development in the Calving and
Post-Calving Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized in accordance with a constitution approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on September 5, 1975 and ratified June 26, 1976; and

WHEREAS, for thousands 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; 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 I of both the International Covenant on 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 its 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 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge - Coastal Plain; and

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


WHEREAS, the Gwich'in people of every community from Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Beaver, Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Stevens Village, Circle, and Eagle Village in Alaska; from Old Crow, Fort McPherson, Arctic Red River, Aklavik and Inuvik 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; and that the area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge be made wilderness to achieve this end.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council does support the resolution to Prohibit Development in the Calving and Post-Calving Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

CERTIFICATION

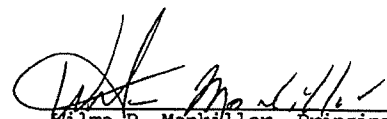
The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the Cherokee Nation at a duly called meeting on the 13th day of JULY, 1991 having 13 members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of 13 yea; 0 nay; 0 abstaining.


John A. Ketcher, President
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

ATTEST:


Gary D. Chapman, Secretary-Treasurer
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Approved this 13th day of JULY, 1991


Wilma P. Mankiller, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma



Gwich'in Steering Committee

122 First Ave. Box 2 ♦ Fairbanks, AK 99701 ♦ 907.458-8264 ♦ Fax 907.457.8265

*"In no case may a people be deprived
of their own means of subsistence."
International Covenants on Human Rights*

August 9, 2013

Cherokee Nation Tribal Council
PO Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Cherokee Nation brothers and sisters,

Let us start by saying 'mahsi' choo' – thank you so much for your on-going support of the Gwich'in Nation in defending our inherent fundamental human rights to continue our way of life and pass it on to future generations. Proposed development of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a direct threat to our Gwich'in subsistence livelihood, the very health and well being of our people, cultural heritage and spirituality. The late Wilma Mankiller went above and beyond in signing the original resolution and sending letters of support to US Senators and Representatives.

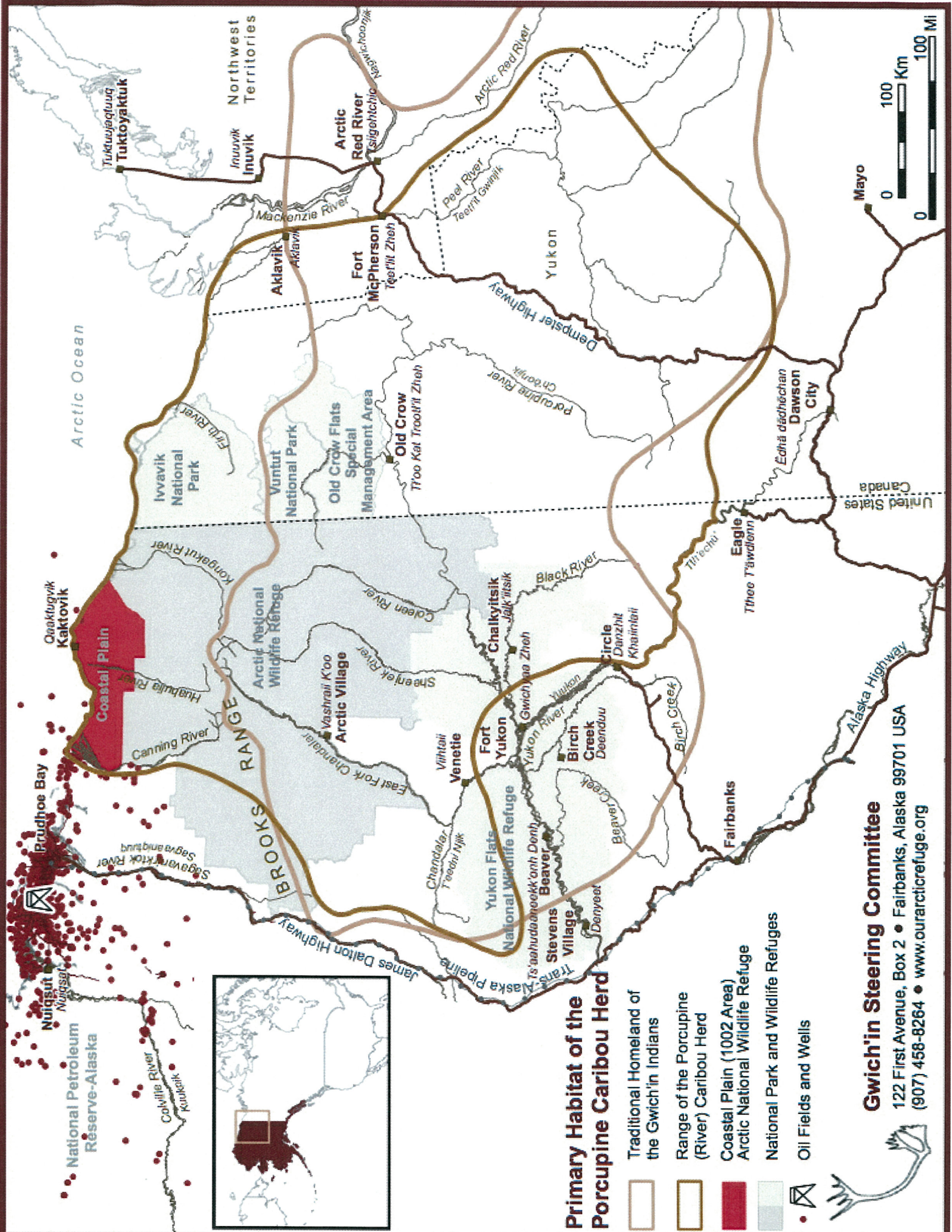
For thousands of years, the Gwich'in Nation of Northeast Alaska and Northwest Canada have relied on the Porcupine Caribou Herd to meet the nutritional, cultural, spiritual and social needs of our people. The Gwich'in Nation is united and speaks with one voice in uncompromising opposition to any exploration of this area that is critical to our very survival.

Once again, we are asking tribes to renew their resolutions of support as we continue the fight to protect our way of life. Over the years, we have garnered hundreds of resolutions of support from tribes. These resolutions have made a significant impact and we are humbled and grateful to have the support of our brothers and sisters. And we stand in solidarity with you for the well being of your people.






Mahsi' choo shalak naii, K'eegwaadhat noohaa'ooli',
(May the Creator be with you, Thank you All My Relations),

Princess Lucaj
Executive Director, Gwich'in Steering Committee

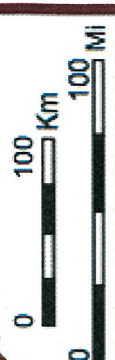
Sarah James - Arctic Village Kay Wallis - Fort Yukon Ernest Erick - Venetie Clarence Alexander - Fort Yukon
Lorraine Netro – Old Crow Carolyn Lennie – Arctic Red River Elizabeth Vittrekwa – Fort McPherson



Primary Habitat of the Porcupine Caribou Herd

-  Traditional Homeland of the Gwich'in Indians
-  Range of the Porcupine (River) Caribou Herd
-  Coastal Plain (1002 Area) Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
-  National Park and Wildlife Refuges
-  Oil Fields and Wells

Gwich'in Steering Committee
 122 First Avenue, Box 2 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 USA
 (907) 458-8264 • www.ourarcticrefuge.org





NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #BIS-02-056

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Tex G. Hall
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Joe A. Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh
(Pueblo of San Juan)

RECORDING SECRETARY

Colleen F. Cawston
Colville Confederated Tribes

TREASURER

Alma Ransom
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

ABERDEEN

Harold Frazier
Cheyenne River Sioux

ALBUQUERQUE

John F. Gonzales
San Ildefonso Pueblo

ANADARKO

James M. Potter
Prairie Band Potawatomi

BILLINGS

Geri Small
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

JUNEAU

Mike Williams
Yupiaq

MINNEAPOLIS

Bob Chicks
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of
Mohican Indians

MUSKOGEE

Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

NORTHEAST

Kevin Seneca
Seneca Nation

PHOENIX

Evelyn B. Juan-Manuel
Tohono O'Odham Nation

PORTLAND

Ernie Stensgar
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

SACRAMENTO

Juana Majel
Pauma-Yuima

SOUTHEAST

Eddie Tullis
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jacqueline L. Johnson
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

Title: Supporting the Subsistence Lifestyles of Alaska's Tribes, Gwich'in, Inupiat, Tlingit and Saint Lawrence Island Native Peoples, and of Related Indigenous Cultures in Canada and Russia, and Opposing Efforts by Multinational Economic and Political Interests that Would Endanger these Lifestyles

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, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people and their way of life, 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, the subsistence traditions of Alaska Native peoples and other related indigenous peoples vary considerably among regions and cultures, but are tied together by the common strands of their importance for indigenous cultural survival, and their vulnerability to attack from outside interests that lack respect for these subsistence traditions and would destroy or endanger these traditions in pursuit of their multinational economic or political objectives; and

WHEREAS, like the Yup'ik people of the Akiak Native Community and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta of southwest Alaska, the Gwich'in Athabascan people of eastern Alaska and Canada's Yukon Territory, the Inupiat people of northern and western Alaska, the Saint Lawrence Island Natives of the Bering Sea, the Siberian Yup'ik familial relatives of Saint Lawrence Islanders who live on the Russian side of the Bering Sea, and other indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia, all depend on the perpetuation of their various subsistence traditions across the generations for the very survival of their indigenous cultures; and

WHEREAS, legal barriers and ecologically destructive practices imposed by multinational political and economic interests can and have disrupted indigenous hunting traditions in places around the world, and even where these disruptive actions may have ultimately proven temporary in nature, they have interfered with the perpetuation of indigenous subsistence traditions across the generations, thereby threatening the very survival of indigenous cultures; and

WHEREAS, the cultural survival of the Gwich'in is so tied to the survival and continuation of the migratory cycle of the Porcupine caribou herd of Canada and Alaska that the Gwich'in are known as the "People of the Caribou;" and

WHEREAS, the Inupiat people have likewise been referred to as the "People of the Whale" because of their profound cultural relationship with the bowhead whale, which provides the foundation of their subsistence diet, and serves as a central organizing factor for a culture that is largely structured around whaling crew affiliations and associated familial relationships; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Lawrence Island Natives are likewise dependent upon whaling for their cultural survival, and the Native peoples of eastern Siberia have only recently begun the difficult task of trying to reclaim and reinvigorate subsistence whaling traditions suppressed under decades of Soviet rule; and

WHEREAS, the people of Southeastern Alaska are likewise dependent on herring for their subsistence lifeways; and

WHEREAS, all Alaska Natives dependent on the riverways for their traditional lifeways related to the salmon; and

WHEREAS, all of these subsistence traditions are currently threatened by multinational political and economic interests that place them at risk; and

WHEREAS, the cultural survival of the Gwich'in people is threatened by multinational oil companies and pro-industry officials in the highest ranks of the United States government "B" forces that would callously place the survival of the Porcupine caribou herd at risk, by gambling that oil exploration and development on the herd's calving grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of Alaska would not have the devastating effects on the herd that many biologists and people with indigenous knowledge of the caribou believe such actions would; and

WHEREAS, the cultural survival of the Inupiat people, the Saint Lawrence Island Natives, and the indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia is likewise threatened by recent developments before the International Whaling Commission, where Japan succeeded in blocking the allocation of whaling quotas for Alaska Natives and indigenous Siberians, beginning in 2003, and did so solely out of a desire to retaliate against the United States for its opposition to the resumption of a commercial whaling industry in Japan; and

WHEREAS, it is morally wrong and a violation of basic human rights for multinational corporations and national governments to place the survival of indigenous cultures at risk, especially to pursue excess wealth or international political advantage, and it is important that the NCAI oppose these assaults on indigenous lifeways that are currently being perpetrated on the international stage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby oppose the efforts of multinational oil companies and certain high ranking federal officials, to open the Arctic Refuge to oil exploration and development in complete disregard of the risks such actions would create for the cultural survival of the Gwich'in people of Alaska and Canada, and calls upon the government of the United States to reject any and all proposals that might create such risks; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI similarly opposes the efforts of commercial fishing interest which adversely affect the subsistence salmon and herring traditional and customary fishing rights of all Native Tribes of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI similarly opposes the efforts of the government of Japan and Japanese commercial whaling interests, to play international power politics by shutting down indigenous whaling in Alaska and Siberia at the expense of indigenous cultures that must be allowed to survive and perpetuate their way of life, and calls upon the governments of the United States, Russia and Japan to take appropriate steps to end this callous and abusive mistreatment of indigenous cultures on both sides of the Bering Sea border; 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 at the 2002 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Bismarck Civic Center, in Bismarck, North Dakota on June 16-19, 2002 with a quorum present.



Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:



Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 2002 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Bismarck Civic Center, in Bismarck, North Dakota on June 16-19, 2002.