



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

Resolutions Committee Recommendation

Resolution #: REN-13-056

Title: Opposition to Any/All Horse Anti Slaughter Acts and Support for Human Consumption of Horse Meat

Comments:

This resolution asks NCAI to oppose Senate and House bills that restrict the sale and transportation of horses and horse parts raised in the U.S. for human consumption, support horse slaughter facilities on reservations, and support lifting the ban on the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

NCAI passed a resolution reflecting this policy already—with the exception for the part regarding the slaughter of horse for human consumption—at Mid-Year in 2009 (#NGF-09-017).

Recommendations:

General proofreading edits.

Consolidate the long list of “Be it now resolved” actions into one paragraph.

Recommend that this be tabled. NCAI already has a resolution on it and the discussion of whether tribes should support human consumption of horses is different from supporting tribes’ ability to slaughter horses on their lands.

This is national in scope, but is not an emergency resolution.

Sponsor a member in good standing (yes/no)?: _____



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #REN-13-056

TITLE: Opposition To Any/All Horse Anti Slaughter Acts

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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Jefferson Keel
Chickasaw Nation

RECORDING SECRETARY
W. Ron Allen
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Superior Chippewa Indians

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Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

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Pauma-Yuima Band of Mission Indians

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Willie Sharp, Jr.
Blackfeet Tribe

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Archie Lynch
Haliwa-Saponi

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Darrell Flyingman
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes

SOUTHWEST
Derek Valdo
Pueblo of Acoma

WESTERN
Alvin Moyle
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson
Tlingit

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, 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 Tribes of the United States have for many years spent countless man hours and funding protecting and re-establishing the ecosystem from degradation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the United States are home to over 90,000 head of unclaimed/feral horses that are overgrazing the destroying the rangeland of many of the reservations and that are damaging natural spring developments, efforts at stream bank restoration, and culturally significant plants; and

WHEREAS, the tribes of NCAI have previously adopted NCAI resolution # NFG-09-017 in June 2009, "Opposition to Any/All Horse Slaughter Acts, Also Supporting a Tribal Amendment Allowing Tribes of Establish Horse Slaughter Facilities within Their Jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has a clear fiduciary trust responsibility to protect the interests of Tribal Nations as well as a duty to implement laws passed to benefit those Tribes, yet it the Administration failed to consult or communicate with any Tribes prior to taking a position to propose appropriations language reinstating the ban on funding USDA inspectors of horse meat for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, various Members of Congress have sponsored legislation into the House of Representatives (H.R. 1094) and the Senate (S.541) entitled the Safeguard American Food Exports Act of 2013, to restrict or prohibit the sale or transport of equines and equine parts raised in the United State in interstate or foreign commerce for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development/Natural Resources committee agrees the horse market represents the only economically viable means of reducing the size of feral herds damaging reservation environments and would further assist reservation horse producers who need to sustain their livestock operations, in the productive utilization of tribal and allotted lands; and

WHEREAS, there are ample safeguards utilized by the USDA to ensure no drug residue makes it way into horsemeat exported as well as the fact that horsemeat has been successfully tested by overseas countries and importers for many years and consumed safely and without incident by millions of residents in the countries of some of our country's largest and closest trading partners; and

WHEREAS, The National Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC) is a sub-committee of Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and requests that the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs provide a funding source for horse management practices on trust lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI opposes any legislation restricting horse slaughter for human consumption or legislation that removes funding of USDA inspectors of horse meat for human consumption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI opposes any legislation to restrict or prohibit the sale or transport of equines and equine parts raised in the United in interstate or foreign commerce for human consumption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports authorizing Tribes to establish horse slaughter facilities within their jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports a request for development of a BIA line item specific for management of overpopulation of horses from the Department of Interior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI calls on the Department of Interior/Federal Government to support the Tribes' position opposing legislation that bans the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

BE IT FURTHER 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 2013 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Reno, Nevada on June 24-27, 2013, with a quorum present.

President

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary



The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #REN-13-056

TITLE: Opposition ~~To~~ Any/All Horse Anti Slaughter Acts and Support for Human Consumption of Horse Meat

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Tlingit

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, 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 Tribes of the United States have for many years spent countless man hours and funding protecting and re-establishing the ecosystem from degradation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the United States are home to over 90,000 head of unclaimed/feral horses that are overgrazing the destroying the rangeland of many of the reservations and that are damaging natural spring developments, efforts at stream bank restoration, and culturally significant plants; and

WHEREAS, the tribes of NCAI have previously adopted NCAI resolution # NFG-09-017 in June 2009, "Opposition to Any/All Horse Slaughter Acts, Also Supporting a Tribal Amendment Allowing Tribes of Establish Horse Slaughter Facilities within Their Jurisdiction"; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has a clear fiduciary trust responsibility to protect the interests of Tribal Nations as well as a duty to implement laws passed to benefit those Tribes, yet it the Administration failed to consult or communicate with any Tribes prior to taking a position to propose appropriations language reinstating the ban on funding USDA inspectors of horse meat for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, various Members of Congress have sponsored legislation into the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 1094) and the U.S. Senate (S.541) entitled the Safeguard American Food Exports Act of 2013, to restrict or prohibit the sale or transport of equines and equine parts raised in the United State in interstate or foreign commerce for human consumption; and

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WHEREAS, the Economic Development/Natural Resources committee agrees the horse market represents the only economically viable means of reducing the size of feral herds damaging reservation environments and would further assist reservation horse producers who need to sustain their livestock operations, in the productive utilization of tribal and allotted lands; and

WHEREAS, there are ample safeguards utilized by the USDA to ensure no drug residue makes it way into horsemeat exported as well as the fact that horsemeat has been successfully tested by overseas countries and importers for many years and consumed safely and without incident by millions of residents in the countries of some of our country’s largest and closest trading partners; and

WHEREAS, The National Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC) is a sub-committee of Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and requests that the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs provide a funding source for horse management practices on trust lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI: opposes any legislation restricting horse slaughter for human consumption, ~~or legislation that removes funding of USDA inspectors of horse meat for human consumption;~~ opposes any legislation that restricts or prohibits the sale or transport of equines and equine parts raised in the United States in interstate or foreign commerce for human consumption; supports authorizing tribes to establish horse slaughter facilities within their jurisdiction; supports a request for development of a BIA line item specific for management of overpopulation of horses from the Department of Interior; and calls on the Department of Interior/Federal Government to support the tribes’ position opposing legislation that bans the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

~~;~~ and

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI opposes any legislation to restricts or prohibits~~ the sale or transport of equines and equine parts raised in the United in interstate of foreign commerce for human consumption; and

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports authorizing Tribes to establish horse slaughter facilities within their jurisdiction; and~~

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI supports a request for development of a BIA line item specific for management of overpopulation of horses from the Department of Interior; and~~

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI calls on the Department of Interior/Federal Government to support the Tribes’ position opposing legislation that bans the slaughter of horses for human consumption.~~

BE IT FURTHER 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 2013 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Reno, Nevada on June 24-27, 2013, with a quorum present.

President

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #NGF-09-017

TITLE: Opposition to Any/All Horse Slaughter Acts, Also Supporting a Tribal Amendment Allowing Tribes to Establish Horse Slaughter Facilities within Their Jurisdiction

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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, 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, the Tribes of the Northwest have for many years spent countless man hours and funding protecting and re-establishing the ecosystem from degradation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the Northwest are home to over 20,000 head of unclaimed/feral horses that are overgrazing and destroying the rangeland of the northwest reservations that are damaging spring developments, stream bank restoration, fish habitat and culturally significant plants; and

WHEREAS, various political co-sponsors have introduced and reintroduced legislation into the House of Representatives (HR 503) and Senate (S 727) amending the 1970 Horse Protection Act (HPA) to prohibit the showing, transport or sale of horses that have been subject to any painful process to accentuate their gate; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has a trust responsibility to protect the interests of Tribal Nations as well as a duty to implement laws passed to benefit those Tribes, yet it failed to consult or communicate with any Tribes prior to taking position on HR 503; and

WHEREAS, the horse market represents a significant market that reservation horse producers need to sustain their livestock operations, in the productive utilization of tribal and allotted lands; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC) is adopted as a sub-committee of Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and requests the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs provide a funding source for horse management practices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports a tribal amendment to any legislation pertaining to horse slaughter, authorizing Tribes to establish horse slaughter facilities within their jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI supports a request for development of a line item specific for management of overpopulation of horses from the Department of Interior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls on the Department of Interior/Federal Government to support the Tribes position opposing legislation that bans the slaughter of horses for human consumption; 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 2009 Mid-Year Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at Conference Center Niagara Falls in Niagara Falls, New York on June 14-17, 2009, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary