



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

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

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 for human consumption, 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 FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.