



SUPPORT FOR INCLUSION OF TRIBES IN CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSIONS

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC), organized in 1983, is a coalition created to act as a collective voice for issues of common concern to its member organizations; and

WHEREAS, the member organizations of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color are the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA); and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, United States Supreme Court decisions, and hundreds of treaties, federal statutes, and regulations all acknowledge the inherent sovereignty of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and recognize that they are distinct, domestic, sovereign governments; and

WHEREAS, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have a greater status than territories of the United States, because American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians retain inherent sovereignty which has never been extinguished; and

WHEREAS, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are impacted by the effects of climate change on their tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government designates representatives to participate in delegations in international climate change for a; and

WHEREAS, tribal participation is important in the discussion of climate change because of the impacts climate change has on tribal life and communities, and because American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have a special legal, cultural and spiritual connection to the land.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NNABA does hereby call on the United States Government to name tribal representatives to the United States' delegations participating in international climate change fora and also to advocate and provide meaningful and effective participation in such fora by tribes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color urges the Executive Branch to consult with American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians on climate change and to provide adequate and equitable financial and other support to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians for carrying out measures such as mitigating climate change, reducing greenhouse gases, promoting renewable

energy and energy efficiency, and adapting to direct impacts from climate and sea-level changes to their territorial and reservation land bases and resources, including with free and formal consent of tribal communities imminently threatened by erosion and flooding, the development and implementation of plans for permanent relocation.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the legislative priority of the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

WE, the duly-elected Presidents of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA), hereby certify that they foregoing Resolution was duly enacted by a duly-noticed meetings of the Board of Directors.



Diana Sen
President, Hispanic National Bar Association

7/20/11

Date

Paul O. Hirose
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

7-20-11

Date

Demetrius Shelton
President, National Bar Association

7/20/11

Date

Mary Smith
President-Elect, National Native American Bar Association

7-20-11

Date