

**Proclamation of Solidarity
in Support of Native American Dignity and Rights**

WHEREAS, the American Indian population has a long and proud history of caring for their elders, women, children, tradition, environment and all of God's creatures; and

WHEREAS, the original inhabitants of these lands have long suffered from European civilization policies, and continue to lag behind in many benefits and advancements that are too slowly becoming available to other non-Caucasian populations of North America; and

WHEREAS, Native American tribes have a centuries-old kinship with the indigenous peoples of all North, Central and South American countries, as they shared the same lands for many generations before they were subjected to the eastern practices of genocide and bounties, and

WHEREAS Native Americans have the right to protect their traditions and histories, as well as to fully participate in the arena of jobs, health-care, education, and in building a bright future together with all people who share this land today; and

WHEREAS all peoples of this earth are deserving of respect and support; and

WHEREAS the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO has established a number of constituency groups providing a bridge to diverse communities, strengthening partnerships to enhance the standard of living for all workers and their families, and ensuring that organized labor hears and responds to the concerns of the communities represented.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that we support their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all peoples of these lands; and be it further

RESOLVED that we recognize and support Native American efforts to gain economic self-sufficiency, utilizing existing Federal and State laws, such as the American Indian Preference in Employment Act; and be it further

RESOLVED that we support the full use of education, job training and Union Apprenticeship Programs as an outreach to Native peoples, the forming of partnerships with Tribal Governments and Native owned businesses that target federal and state funded infrastructure, product and service projects that provide an avenue for improving the social and economic conditions of Native populations; and be it further

RESOLVED that we support building and mobilizing a qualified Native American Labor Force, that is fully integrated into the Labor movement, and upholds the finest Standards of Excellence in craftsmanship, service and quality; and be it further

RESOLVED that we proclaim our solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples who were the original occupants of the Americas; and be it further

RESOLVED that this body assembled for the _____ stand tall in support of the rights of indigenous peoples everywhere, and use its power and authority to encourage support for the Council for First Inhabitants Rights and Equality (Council-FIRE, 501c3 and 509a2), who has grown from within Labor and has the mission to work for Native American labor and human rights issues; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this body will urge its affiliates to include the issues of native people in its efforts to bring liberty and justice for all.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, _____,

by the _____

XXXXXXXX – Executive Secretary