

**32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary International Indian Treaty Council Conference hosted by the  
Independent Traditional Seminole Nation of Florida, at Red Bay Grounds, Traditional  
Seminole Territory, Florida, USA**

**February 9-12, 2006**

**Resolution of the Protection of Indigenous Sacred Places, Burial and Spiritual Rights**

The commission on the Protection of Sacred Places, Burial, Cultural and Spiritual Rights at the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Indian Treaty Council Conference calls upon the IITC to reaffirm all the resolutions for the protection of sacred places, burial, cultural and spiritual rights adopted at previous IITC conferences and to adopt the following resolutions based on the considerations presented by participants in this Commission:

The IITC resolves to support Indigenous Peoples, Nations, Pueblos, tribes, communities, bands, traditional spiritual practitioners, family, clans and organizations in their efforts to define, administer, protect and preserve their sacred places such as those connected to the earth, wind, water, fire, plants, animals including the womb of the woman and the birthing places of all female nations and all indigenous sacred burial sites from disturbance, development and destruction.

The IITC reaffirms its support for efforts to oppose attempts by the State of California, the United States government and Calpine Energy Corporation to mine geothermal energy within the sacred Medicine Lake Highlands which would negatively impact the cultures of Indigenous peoples who have used the highlands region for traditional healing, ceremonial instructional purposes as well as the natural environment of this sacred area.

The IITC resolves to support and work with Indigenous Nations, traditional spiritual practitioners, grassroots people, and organizations to prevent the use of reclaimed waste water to make artificial snow on the San Francisco Peaks which is sacred to 13 Indigenous Nations in the Southwest and to challenge the United States Federal Courts and the United State Forest Service for allowing this proposal to go forward against the widespread opposition by Indigenous peoples of the Southwest, the proposed expansion and use of reclaimed waste water will place substantial burden on traditional spiritual practitioners free exercise of religion and destroy the sensitive ecological environment of the sacred San Francisco Peaks.

The IITC will support the adoption of Indigenous regional, national, and international legislation designed to strengthen and/or enforce laws for the absolute protection and preservation of sacred places, sites, burials, cultural property and spiritual rights in perpetuity so that all sacred places will be further protected and preserved for Indigenous Peoples and their descendents. Therefore be it resolved that the IITC will assist in protecting and preserving the following areas:

The IITC will offer support to the Independent Traditional Seminole Nation of Florida and their traditional spiritual practitioners to protect burials, sacred sties and springs. These areas include the Miami Circle and the city of Marineland where human remains and burial mounds

are located and are being threatened by development and to assist in helping return human remains and funerary objects now being held by the state of Florida.

The IITC will continue to support Western Shoshone efforts to protect their sacred spiritual areas in particular De-na-bo (Mount Tenaboli), Bu-hee-mu-tu (Blue Point), Horse Canyon and the hot springs located throughout Newe Sogobia (Western Shoshone Territory) and to oppose any mining or energy exploitation in these areas.

The IITC supports and reaffirms any and all efforts to block the construction of a major telescope initiated by the National Science Foundation and Veritas on Kitt Peak which is sacred to the Tohono O'odham Nation in Arizona and Mexico, the proposed telescope will destroy the spiritual integrity of the mountain.

The IITC supports and affirms all actions to block the proposed development of oil refineries and all other oil related development by the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota. These actions would desecrate the sacred Missouri River and numerous sacred sites and burials the proposed development will further destroy the environmental quality of the region.

The IITC recognizes and supports the Biloxi-Chitimacha Choctaw Confederation of Muskogees and the Pointe-Au-Chien Nation in Mississippi, whose traditional lands, burials and sacred places are being threatened by global warming, hurricanes, sea level rise, the elimination of Mississippi River sediment and erosion due to oil and gas development in the Gulf Coast region.

The IITC reaffirms its support of Oxajuj Ajpop in Guatemala from desecration and destruction of the Tulam Tzu sacred site also known as the Rosario Naranjo Archeological Site, in order to stop all construction at this sacred place. This sacred place where Mayan ancestors performed prayer and healing ceremonies is under constant attack due to the removal of sacred objects and human remains. The ancestors of the Mayan people demand a stop to the destruction of this site.

The IITC will continue to monitor the status of the Indigenous Taino (Jibaro People) of Boriken (Puerto Rico) with particular attention to Kaguana Ceremonial Center as well as the on-going desecration of other sacred places, ancestral remains, and related cultural property on the island. The IITC will continue to offer assistance in an advisory capacity to the Taino (Jibaro) community in the on-going struggle for their human rights.

Be it further resolved on this day of February 12, 2006 that the IITC resolves the following: to assist in protecting the Petroglyphs in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Black Hills (Paha Sapa), Glen Cave Burial Site, Homer Lake, Chumash Wind Caves, Cane Hill Slim Buttes, and 1,700 sacred places of worship in Mercer County North Dakota, and all other Indigenous sacred places and burial sites from destruction, disturbance, desecration, development caused by social, economic, or political activity.

*Adopted by consensus February 12, 2006*