

NCAI urges passage of American Jobs Act to help boost U.S. economy

Act is beneficial for Indian-owned small businesses, American Indian workers

WASHINGTON – The nation's oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native advocacy organization, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), released a

statement Sept. 9 supporting President Obama's Jobs Act proposal.

"NCAI applauds the president for taking action and supports the very real impact of the American Jobs Act for Tribal nations and Native people. Over 20,000 Native American-owned small businesses would benefit from tax cuts and 1.5 million Native American workers will benefit from the extension of the payroll tax cut," said Jefferson Keel, president of NCAI.

"We applaud the act's specific investment in Tribal infrastructure – schools, roads, homes – and our citizens – construction workers, teachers and veterans – to name just a few. Given the staggering unemployment crisis in Indian Country, for Tribal economies the time to act is now and Congress cannot wait another minute," concluded Keel.

The American Jobs Act as proposed by President Obama has the potential

to fully utilize the economic potential of Tribal nations. Tribal governments create jobs for Tribal citizens and their non-Native neighbors from Phoenix to rural Alaska and from Mississippi to Minneapolis.

As Tribal governments make tough choices to spur economic growth and close budget gaps, NCAI urges our colleagues in Congress to reach across the aisle, get this bill passed and put America back to work.

Keystone XL Tar Sands Oil Pipeline 'poses grave dangers' to Tribal nations

NCAI opposes pipeline; calls for energy demand to be met by responsible energy development

WASHINGTON – In anticipation of a forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement by the U.S. State Department on the proposed Keystone XL Oil Pipeline, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) issued a statement in August saying the proposed pipeline expansion could severely impact American Indian communities and "poses grave dangers if it is constructed."

The statement released by NCAI, the nation's oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native advocacy organization, reaffirms the position of its members and expresses solidarity with Canadian First Nations concerned about the project.

"The Keystone XL pipeline ... would threaten, among other things, water acqui-

fers, water ways, cultural sites, agricultural lands, animal life, public drinking water sources and other resources vital to the peoples of the region in which the pipeline is proposed to be constructed," reads an NCAI resolution passed in June at the organization's most recent gathering of its members.

NCAI is calling for domestic energy demands to be met by developing energy resources responsibly in order to protect vital natural resources, such as vast water reserves.

"Homeland and economic security starts with energy security, but Indian Country wants it to be done right, not at the expense of the health of our communities and resources, both Tribal and non-Tribal," said Jefferson Keel, president of NCAI, citing the importance of looking to clean domestic energy as a more reliable solution. "During challenging economic times in our country and in our Tribal nations, domestic energy when developed responsibly can create jobs while ensur-

ing that our people and natural resources remain safe and plentiful."

The proposed expansion of the pipeline would cross through northern Alberta, Saskatchewan, Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska and Oklahoma, with potential devastating impacts on communities in surrounding areas and states.

A recent study by a University of Nebraska hydrologist outlines a worst case spill scenario, estimating that Keystone XL could spill as much as 7.9 million gallons in Nebraska's Sandhills, polluting 5 billion gallons of groundwater with benzene and contaminating water used for agriculture and drinking drawn from the Ogallala Aquifer, and more than 6.9 million gallons of tar sands crude at the Yellowstone River crossing.

That estimate far exceeds Exxon Mobil's July 1, 2011, spill of 42,000 gallons near Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation

territory in south-central Montana, contaminating 240 miles of the Yellowstone River.

Responsible alternatives to importing energy resources from outside the United States are abundant, specifically on Tribal lands. In addition to plentiful traditional energy options on Tribal lands, the National Renewable Energy Lab estimates that the wind potential in Indian Country could provide 32 percent of U.S. annual electric generation, whereas the solar energy potential in Indian Country equals twice the total amount of electricity the U.S. generates per year.

The U.S. State Department was expected to issue the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the pipeline in mid-August. Following this, the State Department will undergo a 90-day process to determine whether the pipeline serves the national interest. This is the final step in the permitting process.



Find New Ways to Relieve Stress When Quitting Smoking

- **Start eating a healthier diet.**
A lot of those greasy foods we like also are smoking triggers. 
- **Drink less caffeine.**
Once you quit smoking, the effects of caffeine can increase, potentially making you nervous or cranky. 
- **Spend time with positive people.**
Find a support group, talk with a friend. 
- **Exercise or take up a hobby.**
Walk the dog, walk, do things with your hands, play cards, bead, go bowling, paint, sew – anything to stay busy helps. 
- **Carry a bottle of water.**
Take a cleansing drink of water when you feel an urge to smoke. 
- **Get enough sleep.**
If you feel tired throughout your day, it can make minor little annoyances seem like a major issue. 
- **Treat yourself to something.**
Maybe go fishing with your friends, to the movies, walk on the beach, a massage. Doing something that relaxes you can work miracles. 

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Oregon Quit Line
800-QUIT-NOW
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Planning to apply for Tribal education funds?

Some requirements and deadlines to keep in mind

1. The once-a-year annual deadline for funding is **June 30** of each year (for funding for the upcoming fall semester or academic year).
2. Students must apply for **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at fafsa.ed.gov between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31 each year. Your application for Tribal funding will not be accepted if you do not meet this deadline.
3. If you plan to enter a **graduate program** and wish to be considered for Tribal funding, you must meet the requirements above as well as apply to the **American Indian Graduate Center** for additional funding at aigc.com. **Please note that AIGC has an early spring deadline.**

For more information, contact the following educational specialists:

- Katy Holland, Portland Area Office, 503-238-1512
- Sonya Moody-Jurado, Salem Area Office, 503-390-9494
- Nick Sixkiller, Eugene Area Office, 541-484-4234
- Alissa Lane, Siletz and out-of-area, 541-444-8373 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1373