WHEREAS, many U.S. Tribal Nations are also in opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline because it would threaten, among other things, water aquifers, 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; and

WHEREAS, Indian tribes including the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians are also in opposition to the Exxon-Imperial “Heavy Haul” proposal to transport “tar sands” equipment through the Nez Perce Reservation and across scenic highways, and several Indian tribes have joined in litigation to stop this proposal; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline is unnecessary as a number of other pipelines are not at full capacity to carry oil from Canada to refineries in the U.S., and the oil is also not likely to end up on the U.S. market but will be exported to foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations and First Nations within Indian country near the route of the proposed pipeline have already stated their opposition to the proposed route of the pipeline, and because of earlier opposition from both Tribes and environmental groups, a supplemental environmental impact statement has been required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency from the proposed operators of the pipeline, a draft of which is now available for public comment; and

WHEREAS, since the pipeline is designed to cross the U.S.-Canadian border, the United States Department of State is the lead U.S. agency in evaluating whether the pipeline should be allowed to be constructed in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the First Nations of Canada and Tribal Nations within the U.S. have a long history of working to ensure protection of their environment, and the Keystone XL pipeline poses grave dangers if it is constructed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby oppose the Keystone XL pipeline and the Exxon-Imperial Heavy Haul proposal and their negative impacts on cultural sites and the environment in those portions of Indian country over and through which it is proposed to be constructed, and agrees to file comments regarding this opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline with the Secretary of State as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI hereby urges all affected Tribal Nations to submit comments to the U.S. Department of State regarding the Keystone XL project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI hereby expresses its solidarity with Canadian First Nations in their efforts to protect their communities, aboriginal land and treaty rights, and their request for a moratorium and better management practices on expanded “tar sands” development and opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States is urged to reduce its reliance on the world’s dirtiest and most environmentally destructive form of oil – the “tar sands” – that threatens Indian country in both Canada and the United States and the way of life of thousands of citizens of First Nations in Canada and American Indians in the U.S., and requests the U.S. government to take aggressive measures to work towards sustainable energy solutions that include clean alternative energy and improving energy efficiency; and