



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SAC-06-091



TITLE: Opposition to the Prolific Use and Enhancement of Genetically Engineered Plant Seeds and Transgenic Crops

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the ability to grow and harvest our own food resources is the culmination of countless generations of sowing and harvesting seeds from our ancestors to present day; and

WHEREAS, our ancestors developed a relationship with plants that allowed their cultivation for food and medicine which has become a foundation for our culture and survival for millennia; and

WHEREAS, just as our families are attached to our homelands, so too do our seeds learn to thrive in their place of cultivation by developing a relationship with the soil, water, agricultural practices, ceremonies, and prayers thereby giving seeds a sacred place in our families and community; and

WHEREAS, the continued nurturing of native seeds has provided the basis for the community coming together for communal work such as cleaning acequias and preparing fields as well as in ceremony, prayers, blessings thereby binding our community, traditions, customs, and cultures harmoniously together; and

WHEREAS, our practices in caring for native seeds and growing crops provide for much of our traditional diet and results in our ability to nourish ourselves with healthy food that is culturally and spiritually significant; and

WHEREAS, corporate seed industries have created a technology that takes the genetic material from a foreign species and plant and inserts it into native seeds to create a process which is known as Genetically Engineered (GE) or transgenic crops; and



WHEREAS, the effect of this technology on the environment or human health when consumed over a period of time is not fully understood; and

WHEREAS, the seed industry refuses to label GE seeds and food products containing GE ingredients; and

WHEREAS, the pervasiveness of GE crops in our area cannot then fully be known due to the lack of labeling and therefore carries the potential for genetic pollution of our native seeds.

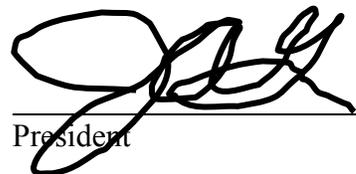
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support and will advocate with the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency:

1. To label the seed industry’s refusal to label seeds or products containing GE technology and ingredients and encourage regulations, rules, and/or legislation that mandates the seed industry as such; and
2. To protect traditional agricultural systems against the use and cultivation of GE seeds within range that could potentially lead to the contamination of native seeds, wild plants, traditional foods, health, and cultural property; and
3. Encourage a spirit of cooperation between local and federal governments to create zones that will be free of genetically engineered and transgenic plant organisms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

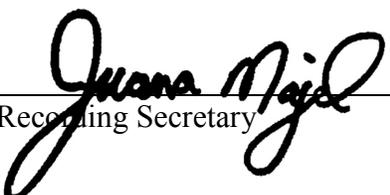
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2006 63rd Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California on October 1-6, 2006, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary