

COLT

COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations / Oglala Sioux Tribe / Navajo Nation / Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe / Blackfeet Tribe of Montana / Rosebud Sioux Tribe / Spokane Tribe / Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe / Ute Indian Tribe / Shoshone-Bannock Eastern Shoshone / Fort Belknap

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE OGLALA LAKOTA NATION EDUCATION COALITION'S POSITION AND REQUESTING INCREASED FUNDING FOR AND A CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING ON TRIBAL TREATY SCHOOLS.

Resolution: **ABQ - 05 - 04/26/2018**

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land base, including the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Crow Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Northern Ute, Shoshone Bannock, Colville Confederated Tribes, Ft. Belknap and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. COLT is chaired by Chairman Russell Begaye of the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting Tribal Nations that govern large trust land bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for Tribal Nations and individual Indian landowners; and

WHEREAS, access to meaningful educational opportunities is an issue that impacts all Tribal Nations, large and small, because it provides Tribal Members, particularly Tribal Youth, with the confidence and skills for long-term success and personal resiliency; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding these benefits, many Tribal Nations face significant challenges in providing safe and vibrant learning environments in their tribal schools due to restricted funding, limited or non-existent transportation networks, crumbling facilities, limited personnel resources, and the effects of a myriad of other socio-economic factors that impact Native communities, families, and children; and

WHEREAS, the United States has entered into and continues to maintain government-to-government relationships with Tribal Nations pursuant to the U.S. Constitution, treaties, federal statutes, executive orders, Supreme Court precedent, and other agreements that establish the Federal Government's trust responsibility to protect the interests of Tribal Nations and communities, including their fundamental interest in providing locally accessible, high quality educational services to Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the United States has entered into the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, 11 Stat. 749, and the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, 15 Stat. 636, with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 affirms "the necessity of education", Article VII, and states that the United States will construct a tribal school "at its own proper expense," Article IV, and pledges an annual federal appropriation to the Great Sioux Nation that "shall be devoted to the education of said Indians" and which must be expended to "best promote the education...of said tribes," Article IX; and,

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the United States' legal obligation to provide education and schools to the Great Sioux Nation as required by Article IV, VII, and IX of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, the Federal Government has underfunded and under-resourced tribal treaty schools on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations for over twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, due to underfunding, many tribal treaty schools have been forced to inappropriately reallocate Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP) dollars that are intended to be used for instructional services to cover program cuts in other areas, such as transportation and school meals; and

WHEREAS, the United States' recurring failure to provide adequate levels of funding in the annual federal budget to appropriately operate and maintain tribal treaty schools has resulted in compounding negative effects on the delivery of educational services, staff recruitment and retention, and the ability of tribal treaty schools to address unmet facilities construction and maintenance needs; and

WHEREAS, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Rosebud Sioux Tribe – whose budgets are already stretched thin to address the public safety, healthcare, economic, cultural, elder care, and other needs of their citizens – have been forced to assume the United States' financial responsibilities in this area so that Tribal Youth have access to uninterrupted educational services that are essential for building resiliency and life-long success; and

WHEREAS, the Oglala Lakota Nation Education Coalition (OLNEC) works to further these efforts in its capacity as the representative body for the Oglala Sioux Tribe's six tribal treaty schools; and

WHEREAS, OLNEC works closely with other Tribal Leaders and tribal treaty school administrators in the Great Plains, including the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, to address unmet

needs in tribal treaty schools and advocate for the fulfillment of the United States' treaty and trust obligations related to education; and

WHEREAS, OLNEC strongly believes that the United States must fulfill its treaty and trust obligations related to education by providing adequate funding in the fiscal year 2019 federal budget to support the education of Tribal Youth on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations, as well as the education of Tribal Youth attending other treaty tribal schools across the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has jurisdiction to conduct a hearing on all matters pertaining to Indian Country, including the provision of educational services and facilities maintenance at tribal treaty schools; and

WHEREAS, a close examination of the status of tribal treaty schools in the Great Plains and Nation-wide is urgently needed to shine the light on this critical issue, identify specific actions that the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education can take to address existing unmet needs, and hold the Federal Government accountable for providing adequate resources and support to tribal treaty schools in fiscal year 2019.

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) Executive Director Legislative Affairs, will deliver said resolution to the COLT Congressional Delegations and proper Committees and work with them on said resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coalition for Large Tribes supports the position of the Oglala Lakota Nation Education Coalition urging the United States Congress to provide increased funding for tribal treaty schools so that Tribal Youth have access to high quality educational services that are provided in safe, structurally sound facilities within their home communities; and

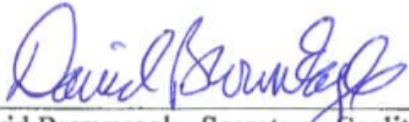
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Coalition of Large Tribes hereby requests that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hold a field hearing in the Great Plains Region on the deleterious effects of chronic underfunding and under-resourcing on tribal treaty schools and Tribal Youth on the Pine Ridge Reservation, Rosebud Indian Reservation, and in other tribal communities.

CERTIFICATION

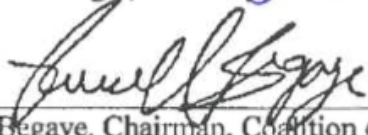
This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 26th, 2018, at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this 26th day of April 2018.

Attest:



David Browneagle, Secretary, Coalition of Large Tribes



Russell Begaye, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes