



## COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

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**A Resolution Entitled, “The Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) Resolution of support for Tracey Zephier judicial vacancy in the District of South Dakota, Western Division, in the heart of Indian Country”**

**WHEREAS**, we, the member Tribes of the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT), a federally chartered corporation, created to advocate for federally recognized large land base tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT member tribes are unified to promote our sovereign rights to protect, enhance, control, utilize, and develop our respective land bases; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT seeks to educate the United States Congress, Executive Administration, the public and other tribes regarding the unique issues impacting tribes that govern large land bases; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT further advocates for legislative, regulatory, and policy reforms that impact large land base tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Government has a unique legal and political relationship with Tribes, which is recognized in the U.S. Constitution, statutes, and Supreme Court decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States District Court of the District of South Dakota Western Division has a District Judge vacancy; and

**WHEREAS**, Tracey Zephier is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the judge of the Western Division has jurisdiction over all matters arising on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which is the second-largest reservation in the United States. The judge’s caseload is heavily Native American; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Zephier is a Democrat. She is 51 years old. She is a 1999 graduate of Yale Law School. She is now the Attorney General of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. She is a former partner in Fredericks, Peebles & Morgan, LLP. Attached is her full resume; and



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**WHEREAS**, Ms. Zephier's, appointment would help fulfill the diversity goals of the Biden-Harris administration. Native Americans in South Dakota and elsewhere have been among the strongest supporters of Democrats, and up to now have precious little to show for it. No group of people has historically been more underrepresented on the federal bench; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Zephier, nomination would be an important step in the ongoing fight against racism and white supremacy in South Dakota. For the first time in history, Native Americans from the Pine Ridge Reservation would appear in front of a federal judge who looks like them, and who based on her own experience, understands their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT respectfully requests President Biden to appoint Ms. Zephier to the judge of the judge of the Western Division; and

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition of Large Tribes Executive Director for Legislative Affairs will deliver the said resolution to the COLT US Senatorial Delegations and proper Committees and work with them on said resolution of support; and

**OW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) call on President Biden to appoint Ms. Tracy Zephier to the United States District for the District of South Dakota Western Division.

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

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Coalition of Large Tribes at a duly held board meeting on February 19, 2021, with a quorum present.

  
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Mark N. Fox, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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Myron Lizer, Secretary