



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation
Crow Nation • Duck Valley Indian Reservation Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute

Resolution: March-9-2024-Resolution #04-2024 (Las Vegas, NV)

Resolution of COLT Support for Robust, Enforceable International Instrument Protective of Indigenous People and Medicines from the Upcoming WIPO Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge

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 Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe and is Chaired by Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Nation; and

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

WHEREAS, indigenous communities have been subjected to trauma at every scale and dimension imaginable – individual, collective, historical, intergenerational, and more – with physical, mental, spiritual and systemic violence intending to destroy them as tribal nations and individuals through centuries of federal policies (e.g., colonialism, assimilation, boarding schools, etc.) intending to take away their beliefs, culture, and relationships with the natural world; and

WHEREAS, genetic resources and culturally important plants / traditional medicines are vital to healing from those traumas and maintaining our cultures and identities; and

WHEREAS, the unique trauma history indigenous people have experienced requires a unique approach to psychoeducation that is adequate to this context; for instance, indigenous peoples have, despite their cultural practices being criminalized, maintained their cultural knowledge and practices as an integral part of their survival, resilience, and ways of being in the world; and

WHEREAS, indigenous cultural knowledge and practices should be made available for trauma healing and mental health services and those resources should be protected; and



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WHEREAS, COLT has long championed such protections including, for example, opposing legalization of mescaline, as indistinguishable from peyote, because such legalization would decimate traditional Native American Church practitioners’ access to peyote through over-harvesting; and

WHEREAS, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is slated to host in May 2024 Diplomatic Conference hosted by WIPO, is the final stage of negotiations before the adoption of an international legal instrument. The future instrument aims to “enhance the efficacy, transparency and quality of the patent system,” and “prevent patents from being granted erroneously for inventions that are not novel or inventive with regard to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.” COLT supports a binding instrument that is at least as strong as the language in the current draft; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Coalition of Large Tribes endorses the execution of a robust, enforceable international instrument coming out of the Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, so long as that agreement is at least as protective of indigenous peoples’ Genetic Information and Traditional Medicines as the current draft; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Coalition of Large Tribes encourages efforts that are indigenous led and owned, that ensure that indigenous cultural knowledge and practices are being preserved and shared in ways that honor ancestral wisdom, and that enjoy the maximum available protections of intellectual property laws; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Coalition of Large Tribes calls on the United States to similarly support a robust enforceable instrument flowing from the WIPO Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge that is as protective as possible of indigenous knowledge, genetics and Traditional Medicines.

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



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Attest:

Marvin Weatherwax, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes

Crystalyne Curley, Secretary, Coalition of Large Tribes

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held in Las Vegas, Nevada within the home state of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation on March 9, 2024 at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this March 9, 2024.