



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon • Crow Creek Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Muscogee (Creek) Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Northern Cheyenne Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • San Carlos Apache Tribe • Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Spirit Lake Nation • Spokane Tribe • Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe

Resolution: February 18, 2025, 2025-Resolution #04-2025 (Rapid City)

RESOLUTION OF COLT SUPPORT FOR UPHOLDING TREATIES, THE FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY, AND TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY BY WAY OF MEANINGFUL TRIBAL CONSULTATION

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 Creek Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Muscogee (Creek) Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Cheyenne Tribe • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • San Carlos Apache Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation • Spirit Lake Nation • Spokane Tribe • Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe and is Chaired by J. Garret Renville of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota; 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, COLT further advocates for legislative, regulatory, and policy reforms that impact large land base Tribes; and

WHEREAS, in Treaties, the United States pledged to protect Indian Tribes, guaranteed the right of Tribal self-government, protection, safety and economic development, and has undertaken a Trust responsibility to promote the viability of Indian reservations and lands as permanent homelands for Tribes. “From the commencement of our government, congress has passed acts to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indians; which treat them as nations, respect their rights, and manifest a firm purpose to afford that protection which treaties stipulate.” *Worcester v. The State of Georgia*, 31 U.S. 515, 556-57 (1831). These are fundamental principles rooted in the separation of powers and the authority of Indian Tribes as sovereign states. *Washington v. Washington State Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Ass’n*, 443 U.S. 658, 675, *modified sub nom. Washington v. United States*, 444 U.S. 816 (1979) (“A treaty, including one between the United States and an Indian tribe, is essentially a contract between two sovereign nations.”). Our



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Treaties are binding contracts in perpetuity entered into in exchange for millions of acres of lands that have made our United States of America great; and

WHEREAS, COLT believes it is imperative we remind the U.S. Government that Treaties are the Supreme Law of the Land and that Treaties and Tribal Sovereignty are “cornerstones” of the Nation to Nation Relationship and Federal Indian policy; and

WHEREAS, under our Constitution, “all Treaties made” are “the supreme Law of the Land.” Art. VI, cl. 2. Congress can pass laws to implement those treaties, see, e.g., *Bond v. United States*, 572 U. S. 844, 851, 855 (2014), and the Executive Branch must act in accordance with them, see, e.g., *Fok Yung Yo v. United States*, 185 U. S. 296, 303 (1902). A treaty is “essentially a contract between two sovereign nations.” *Washington v. Washington State Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Assn.*, 443 U. S. 658, 675 (1979). COLT Tribes’ Treaties with the United States contain numerous obligations for the United States to provide healthcare, law enforcement, economic development and other obligations that were pre-paid by land cessions of millions of acres to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations are sovereign governments recognized under the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and court decisions. The United States has made solemn promises to Tribal Nations for more than two centuries, including respect for Tribal sovereignty and Tribal self-determination, and a longstanding commitment to fulfilling the Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, and that includes regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations as a modern foundation of Federal Indian policy; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000 (Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments), charges all executive departments and agencies with engaging in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications. Tribal consultation under this Order strengthens the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations.

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration has issued numerous Executive Orders, including additional actions by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other federal agencies, in its first month of service that has had significant impacts



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upon Tribal Nations and their citizens and those decisions have been made without any consultation with Tribal Nations and their leaders;

WHEREAS, recent actions with the federal budget and workforce have created numerous actual and potential problems for fulfilling the treaty promises and trust responsibilities of the United States to Tribal Nations; and COLT leaders and staff have worked diligently to address the negative impacts with staff in the Administration and with members of Congress and their staff; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that COLT calls upon the Trump Administration and all relevant federal agency offices to **engage in meaningful tribal consultation before any federal decisions are made that impact Tribal Nations** in order to meet the treaty obligations of the United States, federal statutes, other federal laws and federal court decisions, and to fulfill its longstanding trust responsibilities to Tribal Nations and their citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tribal Nations must be respected and empowered to lead their communities and Tribal Nations are in the best position to serve and govern their own communities; and federal policy must include tribal leaders voices and perspective with any federal decision impacting their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that COLT asserts its longstanding treaty rights, fulfillment of the federal trust responsibility, meaningful tribal consultation, and a commitment to tribal sovereignty by meeting the nation to nation relationship with the Trump Administration;


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



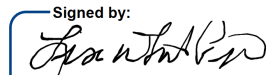
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Attest:

Signed by:

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J. Garret Renville, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes

Signed by:

AB79A0D2A3544B1...

Lisa White Pipe, Secretary / Treasurer, Coalition of Large Tribes

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was enacted at virtual meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held February 18, 2025, at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this February 18, 2025