



INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL of ARIZONA

RESOLUTION 0102

RESOLUTION OF THE INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ARIZONA SUPPORTING THE "TOHONO O'ODHAM CITIZEN ACT OF 2001"

- MEMBER TRIBES
 AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
 COCOPAH TRIBE
 COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
 FORT McDOWELL YAVAPAI TRIBE
 FORT MOHAVE TRIBE
 GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
 HAVASUPAI TRIBE
 HOPI TRIBE
 HUALAPAI TRIBE
 KAIBAB-PAIUTE TRIBE
 PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE
 QUECHAN TRIBE
 SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA
 INDIAN COMMUNITY
 SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE
 TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
 TONTO APACHE TRIBE
 WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
 YAVAPAI APACHE NATION
 YAVAPAI PRESCOTT INDIAN TRIBE

WHEREAS, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona an organization of 19 tribal governments in Arizona, serves as "a united voice and the means for united action on matters that affect them collectively or individually;" and

WHEREAS, the Tohono O'odham Nation a member of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona has proposed legislation, H.R. 2348, that would render all enrolled members of the Tohono O'odham Nation citizens of the United States and recognize the membership credential of the Tohono O'odham Nation as the legal equivalent of a certificate of citizenship or a state issued birth certificate for all Federal purposes; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2348 has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Pastor and Pallone and Congresswoman Jackson-Lee; and

WHEREAS, the Tohono O'odham (Desert) people have lived, worked, ranched, hunted, gathered, traveled and practiced their religion and customs throughout their desert lands in what is now southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Tohono O'odham people are now separated by the Mexico/United States (U.S.) border established through the Gadsden Purchase by the United States government; and

WHEREAS, thousand of members of the Tohono O'odham Nation who were born in the United States and whose births were never registered are unable to obtain benefits, U.S. passports, driver's licenses, in some cases, employment, and travel freely across the International Boundary; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of members who were born in Mexico and whose parents were born in the United States but whose births in the United States were never registered are unable to obtain "derivative" United States citizenship status and are, therefore, denied benefits, driver's license, U.S. passports, employment and cannot freely cross the International Boundary; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of members born in Mexico have lived and worked in the United States without documents their entire lives; and

WHEREAS, members born and residing in Mexico and denied numerous rights enjoyed by members of other federally recognized American Indian sovereigns; and

WHEREAS, all of these members, including the United States citizens, are subject to arrest, deportation, seizure of their vehicles and criminal prosecution when encountered in the United States without documentation; and

WHEREAS, the recent militarization of the Nation's lands adjacent to the International boundary has resulted in the arrest, deportation, seizure of vehicles and criminal prosecution of numerous members; and

WHEREAS, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona supports and accepts the findings of the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council that members of the Nation are not immigrants but are indigenous people and should not be subject to immigration laws and/or state delayed birth registration requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona supports and accepts the findings of the Tohono O'odham Legislative Council that all of the Nation's members should be United States citizens and that based on the government-to-government relationship, the Nation's membership credential should serve as the legal equivalent of a state issued birth record

and/or federally issued Certificate of Citizenship for all legal intents and purposes.

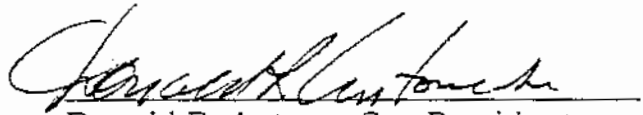
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona strongly supports the "Tohono O'odham Citizen Act of 2001," H.R. 2348, as introduced by Congressman Pastor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the member tribes of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona will communicate to Congress their support of H.R. 2348.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona will request of its member Tribes their individual support for H.R. 2348 and that their support be conveyed to appropriate Congressional representatives.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was presented and duly adopted at a meeting of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, where a quorum was present on July 20, 2001.



Donald R. Antone, Sr., President
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona