

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 44

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Congress concerning
the International Year of the World's Indigenous
Peoples.

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Whereas United Nations Resolution 45/164 of December 18, 1990, proclaimed the year 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples, in order to strengthen international cooperation for a solution to the problems faced by indigenous communities in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education, and health;

Whereas indigenous peoples are descendants of the original inhabitants of many countries with diverse cultures, religions, languages, and social and economic customs;

Whereas an estimated 300 million indigenous peoples live in more than 70 countries, including the United States;

Whereas indigenous peoples are often disadvantaged and face common difficulties in their homelands, including issues such as self-determination, the preservation of land and natural resources, the preservation of culture, arts, and language, and dismal social and economic conditions;

Whereas many indigenous peoples continue to face discrimination and exploitation in their homelands;

Whereas the rights and social and economic conditions of indigenous peoples have often been overlooked by individual nations and the international community; and

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations has drafted a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the United States should cooperate with the
4 United Nations in its efforts to raise the level of
5 public interest in and consciousness of the problems
6 of indigenous peoples;

7 (2) the United States should address the rights
8 and improve the social and economic conditions of
9 its own indigenous peoples, including Native Amer-

1 ican Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians,
2 Chamorros, American Samoans, and Palauans;

3 (3) the United States should support the Unit-
4 ed Nations in its efforts to establish international
5 standards on the rights of indigenous peoples; and

6 (4) the United States recognizes that the year
7 1993 is an insufficient time period for promoting
8 public awareness of the plight of indigenous peoples
9 and urges the United Nations to proclaim an Inter-
10 national Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Passed the Senate November 20 (legislative day, No-
vember 2), 1993.

Attest:

Secretary.