



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-10-078

TITLE: Calling for Federal and State Action to Guarantee the Protection and Preservation of Eagle Rock from the Consequences of Mining Operations by Kennecott Eagle Minerals

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NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Dog Plains is a beautiful, remote, near pristine wilderness in the northern part of Marquette County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Rock, aka “The Home of the White Wolf,” is located in the Yellow Dog Plains; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Rock has been linked to ancient ceremonial sites in Wisconsin and Montana by local tribal history and more recently by exhaustive research and on-site surveys; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Rock is considered a sacred place by various Native American communities in general, and more specifically, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in whose territory the sacred place exists; and

WHEREAS, Eagle Rock has existed and been maintained quietly, privately and secretly by the various Native American communities in order to protect it and preserve it from intrusion and desecration by curious outsiders; and

WHEREAS, the mining operation of Kennecott Eagle Minerals (a subsidiary of the international mining conglomerate, Rio Tinto in the Yellow Dog Plains of Marquette County, Michigan) has intruded into this sacred area, destroying the serenity of the place and drawing attention to its existence; and

WHEREAS, the presence of the aforementioned mining operation has adversely affected access to and has limited traditional use of the sacred place; and

WHEREAS, intrusion by the Kennecott Eagle Minerals mining operation to the Eagle Rock area has subjected the sacred place to the potential for desecration and looting of ancient artifacts and historical markers.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls on legislative and regulatory bodies of the State of Michigan and the United States to take prompt action to guarantee the protection and preservation of the integrity and intrinsic value of the Native American sacred ceremonial place known as Eagle Rock; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that requirements be imposed on Kennecott Eagle Minerals to mitigate the negative aesthetic impact of the proximity of the mining operation to Eagle Rock and that members of the various Native American communities be provided unfettered access for traditional use of the sacred ceremonial place; and

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

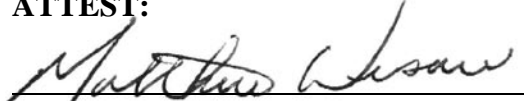
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2010 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM on November 14-19, 2010, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary