

of the Indian people, are concerned about the freedom of religion guaranteed every U.S. citizen by the Constitution of this Nation. The National Congress of American Indians has advocated many times their stand in the protection and maintenance of Indian lands and resources. This organization along with the New Mexico All-Indian Pueblo Council has constantly supported the Taos Pueblo's concern through adopted resolutions. They still stand in support of immediate passage of H.R. 3306, which would transfer to Taos Pueblo by trust patent the entire watershed of the Rio Pueblo de Taos and about 7,200 acres in drainage of the Rio Lucero to the northwest as shown on the map. These two organizations are in further support of Taos Pueblo's concern in asking Congress for the return of the land itself for the following reasons:

- (1) Preservations of religious privacy.
- (2) Preservation of natural ecology.
- (3) Community progress.
- (4) Freedom of worship.

Although the Government originally intended to preserve the land for these Indians and Congress in 1933 directed that the land be held "for (their) personal use and benefit," the permit system has not secured for the Indians the rights of exclusive control and use which are very important for their religious purposes.

It is now time for their wishes to be fulfilled and their rights under the Constitution to be guaranteed. Therefore, Mr. Chairman and distinguished gentlemen, the NCAI strongly urges the Congress to take action on the passage of H.R. 3306.

Attached to this testimony are two resolutions passed by the national congress, the latest resolution having been passed by the executive committee at a meeting in July of this year, and a resolution passed last year in Portland, Oreg. at the 24th annual convention.

(The resolutions referred to follow:)

RESOLUTION

Whereas H.R. 3306, a bill to restore the sacred Blue Lake lands to the rightful ownership of the Taos Pueblo Indians has passed the House of Representatives by unanimous vote and is now pending before the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs; and

Whereas the National Congress of American Indians believes that this measure, by recognizing the religious rights and freedom of the Taos Pueblo Indians, is vitally important to all Indian tribes as well as to all American citizens; and

Whereas there is danger that the bill will die in this session of Congress unless hearings are held shortly: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of the National Congress of American Indians hereby urges early favorable action during this session by the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on H.R. 3306; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be conveyed to the Chairman and membership of the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, as follows: Hon. George McGovern, Hon. Henry M. Jackson, Hon. Clinton P. Anderson, Hon. Paul J. Fannin, Hon. Clifford P. Hansen, Hon. Mark O. Hatfield.

Adopted this 17th day of July, 1968, by the Executive Committee, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, D.C.

WENDELL CHINO, *President*.