SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 14, 15 & 16, 2010, GATINEAU, QC

Resolution no. 62/2010

TITLE:	Cooperation with the National Congress of American Indians to Deal with Oil Pipeline Concerns
SUBJECT:	Oil Pipelines
MOVED BY:	Grand Chief Doug Kelly, Proxy, Soowahlie First Nation, British Columbia
SECONDED BY:	Chief Frank Brown, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Manitoba
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The United States and Canada have signed bilateral treaties including the North American Free Trade Agreement governing the trade of energy resources.

B. The United States considers access to sources of foreign oil to be a national security interest.

C. Canada is now the largest supplier of foreign oil to the United States, supplying 22% (3.1 million barrels) of the 14 million barrels of foreign oil per day purchased by the United States.

D. Treaties and other agreements have been signed between Canada and indigenous people.

E. The Government of Canada is obligated to consult and accommodate the indigenous peoples of Canada in good faith.

F. Indigenous peoples in Canada have expressed economic, social, environmental, health and legal concerns about the development of oil resources in Canada.

G. Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples of the United States of America have expressed similar concerns regarding the use and transit of Canadian oil in the United States of America.

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H. The indigenous peoples of the United States and Canada share historical, cultural, and traditional connections.

I. First Nations, Native Americans, and other Indigenous peoples of the United States and Canada have a special interest in preserving the integrity of the North American environment.

J. The *Declaration of Kinship and Cooperation Among the Indigenous Peoples and Nations of North America*, signed by the Assembly of First Nations and the National Congress of American Indians, states that indigenous peoples of North America may work together to advance "the economic and social well being of the citizens of all our nations… while preserving our traditions of sharing and social justice".

K. The United States Congress has committees specifically to enhance information gathering and dialogue on matters affecting the security of the United States.

L. The possible escalation of the blockades and protests against the pipelines by Canadian First Nations and Native Americans is a concern for the United States security of energy access.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to coordinate with the National Congress of American Indians to develop strategies and programs regarding the impact of oil development on the Indigenous peoples of Canada, their territories, and the environments in which they live.

2. Direct the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations to communicate with the President of the National Congress of American Indians in order to develop strategies to inform the people and government of the United States of the concerns of the indigenous peoples of Canada on the issue of oil development in Canada.

3. The Chiefs in Assembly authorize the Assembly of First Nations to seek Congressional hearings in the United States where we as indigenous people can present our concerns in a structured and meaningful process.

4. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to assess opportunities for future participation in oil trade negotiations between Canada and the United States where decisions may affect First Nations interests and treaty rights.

5. Recognize the right of a First Nation to take direct action to enforce Treaties.

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