

## RESOLUTION NO. 063-20

### **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe "Declaration of Climate Emergency-Climate Crisis"**

**WHEREAS**, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is an unincorporated Tribe of Indians, having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 with the exception of Section 16; and the recognized governing body of the Tribe is known as the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council: and

**WHEREAS**, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, pursuant to the amended Constitution of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Article IV, Section 1(a), 1(c), 1(h) and 1(j), is authorized to negotiate with Federal, State, and local governments and others on behalf of the Tribe, is further authorized to promote and protect the health, education and general welfare of the members of the Tribe;

**WHEREAS**, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, recognizes the importance of a healthy living environment for our Oyate and realize that mankind plays an important role in maintaining the purity of *Mni Wiconi* and *Unci Makah* for our youth and the ones yet to come; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the attendees of the Natural Law Conference held on the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation on June 17-19, 2019 at Prairie Knights Casino and Lodge participated in presentations by Tribal leaders, young adults and elders with traditional ecological knowledge; and identified man made environmental concerns and adverse effects confronting our climate promoted by corporate greed; promoting damaging infrastructure development related to the National Interest; and destructive mineral and natural resource extraction which prompts urgent action from the leadership of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to protect mother earth, *unci makah*; and

**WHEREAS**, our canupa owanyanka Arvol Looking Horse announced to Oceti Sakowin and to the world in the early 1990's a white buffalo calf was born, one of the first spiritual signs of animals being born with white hair will signal that hard times will be coming for the Oyate, mankind and *unci makah*; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in August, 2016, the focus of the entire world was on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, where Water Protectors peacefully, prayerfully objected against building the environmentally destructive Dakota Access Pipeline carrying crude oil; this development would destroy all of our sacred *mni wiconi* (Water of Life) including the Missouri River; and Indigenous Water Protectors were met with extreme violence by oil industry mercenaries and excessive force by the local, state and federal law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, because of these man made destructive actions pressed upon all Oceti Sakowin Oyate and mankind, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe representing four tiospaye of the seven council fires calls on the remaining Oceti Sakowin Oyate to recognize our need for aggressive immediate action and take a strong position on climate change to save *unci makah*; and

#### (THE CURRENT SCIENCE OF OUR CLIMATE)

**WHEREAS**, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere at the time of the enactment of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty was 280 parts per million, and today there is 406 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which has started the destruction of our climate, mankind and *unci makah*; and

**WHEREAS**, average global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius; and the years 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 were the five hottest years on record; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase of average global temperatures by an additional 1 percent centigrade will cause irreparable damage to mother earth, *unci makah*; and

**WHEREAS**, the unanimous consent of National Congress of American Indians recognized the threat of climate change and the URGENT need to combat it by reaffirming the Paris Agreement, and working to limit warming to no more than 1.5 degree Celsius; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned "it would not be possible to meet the 1.5 degree Celsius goal unless global carbon levels were reduced 45 percent below 2010 levels by 2030, requiring an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy" over the next (10) years; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is affecting the global climate, resulting in a pattern of severe drought and catastrophic rain events in the northern plains of the Great Sioux Reservation treaty territory which includes the Standing Rock Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform issued a report on May 6, 2019, identifying 1,000,000 species that are in immediate jeopardy of extinction due to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, immediate, significant reduction in greenhouse gas emission are necessary in order to avoid the catastrophic impacts of an increase of 2 degrees Celsius; and

**WHEREAS**, 80 percent of identified deposits of fossil fuels must remain in the ground in order to avoid irreparable damage to mother earth, *unci makah* and the freshwater supplies, *mni wiconi* that are needed to sustain our indigenous nations and mankind, are in immediate jeopardy; and

**WHEREAS**, "We have reached Crisis Mode" with the increase of average global temperatures that threatens the destruction of indigenous sacred sites of the *Oceti Sakowin Oyate*, indigenous nations and mankind worldwide; and this would create irreparable damage to our environment, spirituality and access to pray at our sacred sites that requires pure *mni wiconi*, water of life and sustainable living environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the traditional ecological knowledge of indigenous communities and immediate needed support for our messenger, canupa owanyanka Arvol Looking Horse by Oceti Sakowin, is needed to help change the fossil fuel-based economy and predominant cultural values and society that have caused this crisis facing mother earth, our *uni makah*; and

(LEGISLATIVE ACTION REQUIRED)

**WHEREAS**, transition to a climate-safe future requires "Climate Mobilization" across all of our society, at all levels of government and across all economic sectors including, but not limited to: agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and mineral extraction energy production at a speed and scale not seen since World War II to reach ZERO greenhouse gas emissions; to rapidly and safely drawdown excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortes has introduced the Green New Deal for the detailed national economic mobilization plan for the transition of the United States economy to becoming greenhouse gas neutral, and to save mother earth, *unci makah*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Green New Deal acknowledges the devastating impact of existing economic strictures on indigenous communities in the United States, worldwide and proposes to address those impacts through the development of a prosperous green economy in Indian Country and the world.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Standing Rock Sioux Tribe “Declares a Climate Emergency-Climate Crisis” and calls upon the leadership and tribal governments of Oceti Sakowin to acknowledge and support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to call upon Congress, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to declare a State of Climate Emergency-Climate Crisis and support the Paris Climate Agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe shall sign the Paris Climate Agreement and humbly encourages all indigenous nations to support and sign the Paris Climate Agreement and to take all necessary and culturally appropriate actions to save mother earth, *unci makah*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Judicial Committee is authorized to deliberate upon and bring forward such ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement this Resolution and address the climate crisis affecting the Standing Rock Indian Reservation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe calls upon the House of Representatives to establish a “Select Committee for a Green New Deal,” to deliberate upon and enact the Green New Deal or a derivative there of including a comprehensive approach to the climate crisis facing the world and impacting indigenous communities throughout the world; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that attachment Appendix “A” titled “Climate Resilience Outline” is authorized and approved by this resolution to outline a plan the includes, but is not limited to:

- 1.) identify the environmental vulnerabilities within *unci makah*, grandmother earth, with regards to the many adverse impacts of climate change; and
- 2.) identifying the overreach of climate change within our social, economic, technological, and political strategies that are being implemented in all areas within our homelands, our world and societies; and
- 3.) develop and establish a “Standing Rock Youth Council on Climate Equity” on Standing Rock Reservation to work with including, but not limited to, the Chairman, the Health Education and Welfare Committee, Judicial Committee and Tribal Council, Office of Emergency Management, Standing Rock Elders Preservation Council, the Department of Water Resources, Department of Environmental Regulation/Environmental Protection Agency, Tribal Land Management Reservation Resources, and the Game and Fish Program, to be tribal resource support; and to work cooperatively with the other bands of our Lakota, Dakota and Nakota Nation to develop and *Oceti Sakowin Oyate* Youth Council on Climate Equity.

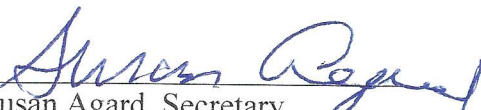
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Secretary of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe are hereby authorized and instructed to sign this resolution for and on behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.


## CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, Chairman and Secretary of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 17 members, of whom 13 constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of **FEBRUARY, 2020**, and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of 12 members, with 0 opposing, and with 1 not voting. **THE CHAIRMAN'S VOTE IS NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT IN CASE OF A TIE.**

DATED THIS 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

ATTEST:

  
Susan Agard, Secretary  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

  
Mike Faith, Chairman  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

[OFFICIAL TRIBAL SEAL]

## Appendix "A"

### "Climate Resilience Outline"

The purpose of this Climate Resilience Outline (CRO) is to identify four benchmark that can be measurable tools for use by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to consider. Standing Rock strives to meet the 1.5-degree Celsius goal. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe acknowledges the position of the 2018 United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that the global carbon levels must be reduced by 45 percent below 2010 levels by 2030. This would require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next (10) years. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is committed to support this global carbon level reduction of 45 percent below the 2010 levels by 2030.

The four benchmarks identified here starts a process to gather the best available information in each category understanding that these will expand based on good science, cultural knowledge and identifying changes in the environmental setting in the Great Plains and expanding globally. This includes establishing a Youth Council on Climate Change. This will create continuity in planning and will identify active individuals to carry out the deliverables of a every changing environmental planning process.

The four categories include, but not limited to:

- 1.) Identify the environmental vulnerabilities within *unci makah*, grandmother earth, with regards to the many adverse impacts of climate change;
- 2.) Identify the overreach of climate change within our social, economic, technological, and political strategies that are being implemented in all areas within our homelands, our world and societies;
- 3.) Develop and establish a "Youth Council on Climate Change" on Standing Rock Reservation with the help of the tribal leadership and tribal resource support departments outlined in this resolution and promote establishing a "Oceti Sakowin Youth Council on Climate Change" within the homelands of Oceti Sakowin to assist these individuals to be the future leaders to address Climate Change and the Climate Crisis;
- 4.) This fourth benchmark will require the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to seek funding from any Federal agency or other funding source to carry out the climate research, developing a comprehensive climate resilience planning process that establishes a Climate Resilience Plan for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Oceti Sakowin; and develop an economic mobilization plan for the transition of our economy to become greenhouse gas neutral by year 2030 for Oceti Sakowin, with other Indigenous Nations influencing State and Federal Government.