

Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes

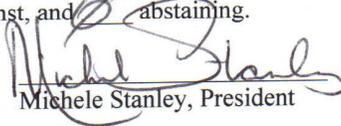
Resolution No. 7-12

Support for Amending the Stafford Act

- WHEREAS,** the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) is an intertribal organization representing the thirty-three (33) federally recognized tribes and four (4) inter-tribal organizations in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Iowa, each having sovereign authority to govern their own affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** MAST's mission is to "advance, protect, preserve, and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign nations of the Midwest;" and
- WHEREAS,** preparing for and dealing with emergency situations arising from natural and man-made disasters are important responsibilities for tribal governments the same as for the United States and individual state governments; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides disaster aid to state, tribal, and local governments after the declaration of a disaster, but current federal law PL 93-288 (the Stafford Act) requires all disaster declaration requests to be channeled through a state governor; and
- WHEREAS,** in many cases tribal governments' requests have been delayed at the state level due to inaction, or to difficulty in convincing a governor that a localized disaster within a tribe's territory constitutes an emergency at the state level; and
- WHEREAS,** amending the Stafford Act to include authorizations for tribal governments to request a disaster declaration directly from the President without routing such request through a governor's office would better serve the public safety needs of Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** bills in the US Congress have been introduced (such as HR 1953, Rahall 2011) that would amend the Stafford Act to provide for tribal governments to directly access the Presidential Disaster Declaration Process thus improving public safety and security in Indian Country.
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes supports legislative efforts to amend PL 93-288, the Stafford Act, to allow tribal governments to request disaster declarations directly from the President of the United States.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as President of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 07-12 was passed on March 28th, 2012, at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present with 14 voting for, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining.


Michele Stanley, President