

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Wireless Emergency Alerts)	PS Docket No. 15-91
)	
Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission's Rules)	
Regarding the Emergency Alert System)	PS Docket No. 15-94

COMMENTS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) strongly urges and supports the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to establish a dedicated Emergency Alert System event code for Missing and Endangered Persons, and specifically the development of a dedicated code for missing and endangered Indigenous and Tribal citizen adults.

As the basis of NCAI's position, and in support of the comments submitted by Native Public Media, the National Tribal Telecommunications Association, Richard Alun Davis, and other commenters in the docket, NCAI herewith submits the attached NCAI resolution, *To Establish a National Federal Communications Commission Event Code for Missing and Endangered Persons, #NO-23-001*, which was formally adopted by the General Assembly at NCAI's 2023 Annual Convention held November 12-17, in New Orleans, Louisiana, with a quorum present from throughout Indian Country.

NCAI is the oldest, largest, and most representative inter-Tribal government organization serving the broad interests of Tribal Nations. NCAI promulgates policy positions on a consensus-based approach by developing NCAI resolutions through a committee and subcommittee structure. In 2024, NCAI is celebrating its 80th anniversary. Through the efforts and input of multiple NCAI Members, NCAI Resolution #NO-23-001 was promulgated through NCAI's Technology and Telecommunications Sub-committee, which was established in 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS



Larry Wright, Jr.
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Dated: June 17, 2024

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The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #NO-23-001

TITLE: To Establish a National Federal Communications Commission Event Code for Missing and Endangered Persons

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 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 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, Native American communities continue to face significant challenges in addressing the issue of missing and endangered adults, requiring immediate attention and action; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native peoples, especially women and girls, have long endured domestic violence, homicide, sexual assault, and abuse at alarmingly disproportionate rates compared to other demographic groups, demanding urgent intervention; and

WHEREAS, Native American communities have historically been disproportionately affected by missing person cases, with Native Americans constituting 2.5% of all missing person cases despite comprising only 1.2% of the U.S. population, as reported by the National Crime Information Center, underscoring the urgent need for targeted measures; and

WHEREAS, Native American women are at an even greater risk of going missing or being endangered, with estimates suggesting that they are ten times more likely to fall victim to homicide than the average American woman, emphasizing the urgent need for focused attention and specialized support; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is the regulatory agency responsible for maintaining the list of approved Event Codes in their Rules. The existing FCC-approved Event Codes for missing persons fail to account for the unique circumstances and challenges faced by missing and endangered Native American adults, highlighting the necessity for tailored solutions; and

WHEREAS, establishing a specific event code for missing and endangered Native American adults would guarantee that these cases receive the alerting attention over the nation's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and the resources they rightly deserve, including increased federal funding for search and rescue efforts and comprehensive support for tribal law enforcement agencies and victim services programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians urgently petitions the FCC to establish a National Emergency Alert System (EAS) event code specifically designated for Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP), ensuring that missing and endangered Indigenous and Tribal citizen adults (adult persons over the age of 21 and thus not subject to Amber alerts) are promptly identified and alerted via the IPAWS System to radio, television, and both wireless and wireline internet platforms, enhancing their chances of being located and protected in a timely and effective manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress establish the necessary funding to support the implementation of this life-saving event code and sustain ongoing efforts to address the pressing issue of missing and endangered Indigenous and Tribal citizen adults, underscoring the urgency and significance of this matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed via appropriate urgent advocacy and correspondence by NCAI to the FCC, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United States Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, the United States Department of the Interior, and all Members of Congress, ensuring widespread awareness of this critical issue and the proposed establishment of an EAS MEP event code; 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 2023 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held November 12-17, 2023, in New Orleans, Louisiana, with a quorum present.



Mark Macarro, President

ATTEST:



Nickolaus Lewis, Recording Secretary