

# **INTERTRIBAL MONITORING ASSOCIATION on Indian Trust Funds**

2401 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW - Suite 207N

Albuquerque, NM 87104

Phone: 505/247-1447 Fax: 505/247-1449 e-mail: [itma@flash.net](mailto:itma@flash.net)

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## **FY03 RESOLUTION #05**

**Supporting the continuation of the Joint Department of the Interior/Tribal Task Force on Trust Reform (or some variation thereof) subject to the following provisions:**

**WHEREAS, the Intertribal Monitoring Association on Indian Trust Funds (ITMA) is a representative organization of fifty-eight (58) federally recognized Indian tribes which includes the nation's largest tribal trust fund account holders;**

**WHEREAS, the ITMA acknowledges that the purpose for the establishment of the Joint Department of the Interior/Tribal Task Force ("Task Force") was to explore alternatives to the implementation of the Department of the Interior's November 2001 trust-related reorganization proposal known as the "Bureau of Indian Trust Asset Management" or the BITAM proposal; and,**

**WHEREAS, the Task Force met and worked for over eight months but did not arrive at a final agreement due to an impasse on various issues and essentially disbanded; and**

**WHEREAS, by order dated September 17, 2002, Judge Royce C. Lamberth presiding over the Cobell v. Norton litigation involving federal mismanagement of the IIM accounts ordered the Department of the Interior to submit its trust reform plan and trust standards to the Court by January 6, 2002;**

**WHEREAS, in light of the deadlines imposed in the Cobell litigation, both the Department of the Interior and some tribal leaders have raised the possibility of continuing the Task Force, or some variation thereof, for the purpose of consulting with Indian tribes on the Department of the Interior's proposed trust reform plan and standards;**

**WHEREAS, to continue the Task Force, or some variation thereof, the existing protocols of Task Force (as previously adopted) must be amended to allow for the participation of any federally recognized tribe; and,**

**WHEREAS, if the Task Force or some variation thereof is continued, no subcommittee of the Task Force dealing with trust reform will be established that does not have as members the representatives of tribes with major trust assets and resources; and,**

**WHEREAS, if the Task Force or some variation thereof is continued, it must pay particular attention and give due consideration to the views of the ITMA member tribes having substantial trust funds and trust resources; and,**

**WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior must give great deference to the ITMA by virtue that its member tribes are those with the greatest expertise in the areas of trust resources and assets; and,**

**WHEREAS, if the Task Force or some variation thereof is continued, its role must not replace the responsibility of the Department of the Interior to also consult directly with each and every federally recognized Indian tribe; and,**

**WHEREAS, if the Task Force or some variation thereof is continued, its scope of work must be limited to what was originally envisioned as issues relative to trust reform.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of directors of the Intertribal Monitoring Association on Indian Trust Funds (ITMA) hereby reiterates its position that it will support the continuation of the Joint Department of the Interior/Tribal Task Force, or some variation thereof, only if the members of the Task Force and the Department of the Interior officials agree to proceed in accordance with the provisions of this Resolution.**

**CERTIFICATION**

**The foregoing FY03 Resolution #05 was adopted by the ITMA Board of Directors at a duly called meeting held on December 17, 2002 at Washington, D. C. at which a time quorum was present with \_\_\_\_\_ voting for, \_\_\_\_\_ voting against and \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining.**

*Attest*

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**ITMA Board Secretary**

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**ITMA Board Chairman**