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ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 3031

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 21, 1979

By Assemblymen EDWARDS and KERN

Referred to Committee on State Government, Federal and
Interstate Relations and Veterans Affairs

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION designating the Ramapough Mountain
People as the Ramapough Indians and memorializing the
Congress of the United States to recognize the Ramapough
Mountain People as the Ramapough Indian tribe in order to
qualify for appropriate Federal funding for Indians.

1 WHEREAS. The Ramapough Mountain People of the Ramapough
2 mountains of Bergen and Passaic counties desire to be designated
3 by the State of New Jersey as the Ramapough Indians because
4 they are direct descendants from pure blooded Indians of the
5 Iroquois and Algonquin nations; and

6 WHEREAS. The Federal Government has provided funds for various
7 programs for Indians; and

8 WHEREAS. The Ramapough Mountain People are striving to be
9 recognized by the Federal Government as the Ramapough
10 Indians in order to receive Federal funds to establish a cottage
11 industry for purposes of self-help and to establish and develop
12 programs specifically designed to meet the special educational
13 needs of Indian children; now, therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New
2 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

1 1. That the Ramapough Mountain People of the Ramapough
2 mountains of Bergen and Passaic counties, descendants of the
3 Iroquois and Algonquin nations, are hereby designated by the State
4 of New Jersey as the Ramapough Indians.

1 2. That the Congress of the United States is hereby memori-
2 alized to recognize the Ramapough Mountain People as the
3 Ramapough Indian Tribe in order that these New Jersey citizens
4 may qualify for Federal funds to establish a cottage industry for

5 purposes of self-help and to establish and develop programs
6 specifically designed to meet the special educational needs of Indian
7 children. The indigenous people of the Ramapough mountains and
8 surrounding vicinity wish to solve the economic problems of their
9 community, decrease the dropout rate for their youngsters, supple-
10 ment the income of their senior citizens, and teach their handi-
11 capped simple skills so that they may support themselves.

1 2. That copies of this concurrent resolution signed by the Speaker
2 of the General Assembly and attested to by the Clerk thereof, and
3 signed by the President of the Senate and attested to by the Secre-
4 tary thereof, be forwarded to the Speaker of the House of Repre-
5 sentatives and the Majority and Minority leaders of said House,
6 and to the President of the United States Senate and the Majority
7 and Minority leaders thereof, and to every member of Congress
8 elected thereto from the State of New Jersey.

STATEMENT

The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to recognize The Ramapo Mountain People of Western Bergen and Passaic county as the Ramapough Indian Tribe to assist them in obtaining similar recognition by the Federal Government and receive Federal assistance as an Indian tribe, so that they may become self-determined.

Their goal of true self-determination will be accomplished by an educational process which insures the development of these people to fulfill meaningful leadership roles, an economic program to encourage self-help, and by integration of the Indian parent into the planning process of the educational system of their community.

Awareness and encouragement by all levels of government and by the public at large is essential to the Ramapough Indians in accomplishing their goals and this concurrent resolution is a necessary step in achieving those ends.