



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

RESOLUTION NO. 14-69
of the
SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is the Governing Body of the Squaxin Island Tribe, its members, its lands, its enterprises and its agencies by the authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Squaxin Island Tribe, as approved and adopted by the General Body and the Secretary of the Interior on July 8, 1965; **and**

WHEREAS, under the Constitution, Bylaws and inherent sovereignty of the Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council is charged with the duty of protecting the health, security, education and general welfare of the tribal members, and with protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources and rights of the Tribe; **and**

WHEREAS, The Tribe is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe possessing reserved powers, including the powers of self government;

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribal Council has been entrusted with the creation of ordinances and resolutions in order to fulfill their duty of protecting the health, security, education, and general welfare of tribal members, and of protecting and managing the lands and treaty resources of the Tribe; **and**

WHEREAS, Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is authorized by the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), P.L. 104-193, as amended and reauthorized by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, P.L. 109-171; **and**

WHEREAS, PRWORA gives federally recognized Tribes the authority to design and operate Tribal TANF Programs; **and**

WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe has a TANF Program and receives Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding through the State of Washington; **and**

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has submitted to the Washington State Office of Financial Management its 2015-2017 Biennium Budget request (for the budget starting July 1, 2015), which includes a proposal to reduce Tribal TANF State MOE funding to Tribes that operate their own TANF programs by 50 percent; **and**

WHEREAS, Tribal TANF participants are among the most vulnerable population to serve due to the high rate of unemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence and other social issues; **and**

WHEREAS, tribal populations already lack in the opportunities to access employment, education, and other community resources, especially due to their remote locations; **and**

WHEREAS, the majority of Washington State Tribes are located in areas where populations cannot support industry, no matter how small; and even where commerce is possible, jobs are lost in the smallest shifts to economic instability; **and**

WHEREAS, Tribal TANF Programs have demonstrated their ability to provide much needed services and exceed expectations in meeting the four purposes of TANF; **and**

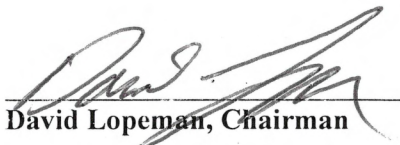
WHEREAS, RCW 74.08A.040 mandates that DSHS "shall . . . (4) upon approval by the Secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services of a tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, transfer **a fair and equitable amount** of the State Maintenance of Effort funds (MOE) to the eligible Indian tribe"; **and**

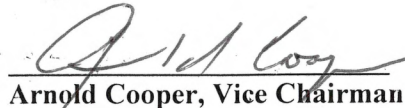
WHEREAS, the Squaxin Island Tribe does not believe that a 50 percent reduction in State MOE funding is a "fair and equitable amount" of funds to provide services to an already vulnerable population.

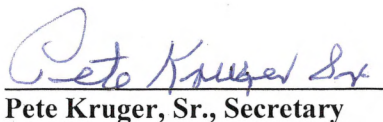
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Squaxin Island Tribe hereby requests that the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services immediately withdraw its proposal to reduce Tribal TANF State MOE funding by 50 percent in the 2015-2017 Biennium Budget.

CERTIFICATION

The Squaxin Island Tribal Council does hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the regular meeting of the Squaxin Island Tribal Council, held on this 9 day of October, 2014 at which time a quorum was present and was passed by a vote of 5 for and 0 against with 0 abstentions.


David Lopeman, Chairman


Arnold Cooper, Vice Chairman


Pete Kruger, Sr., Secretary