

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 8**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Briggs**

March 28, 2001

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 8—Relative to the Choinumni Tribe.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 8, as introduced, Briggs. Choinumni Tribe: federal recognition.

This measure would memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States and the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in the United States Department of the Interior to grant the Choinumni Tribe full federal recognition and all the rights and privileges that arise from that declaration.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Choinumni Tribe of Yokuts is a sovereign  
2 Indian Nation, located in Fresno County, California, consisting of  
3 103 enrolled and documented members, with its tribal  
4 headquarters located approximately 15 miles from Choinumni  
5 State Park named in honor of and as recognition of, the Choinumni  
6 Tribe; and

7 WHEREAS, The leaders of the Choinumni Tribe met with  
8 representatives of the United States for treaty negotiations, and a  
9 treaty was signed by both the tribal leaders and the United States  
10 on April 29, 1851. The Choinumni Tribe was thus recognized by  
11 the United States government as early as 1851; and

12 WHEREAS, Between 1851 and 1915, the United States  
13 government began an unwarranted, hostile relationship with the

1 Choinumni Tribe that forced many of its members to flee into the  
2 hills; and

3 WHEREAS, Around 1887, the United States government  
4 granted individual land allotments to some tribal members, but  
5 those allotments were devoid of any water or other vital natural  
6 resources, forcing surviving tribal members to move to the City of  
7 Fresno to seek economic sustainability; and

8 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has recognized  
9 the Choinumni Tribe pursuant to subchapter XXV (commencing  
10 with Section 651) of Chapter 14 of Title 25 of the United States  
11 Code, which recognition was judicially affirmed by the United  
12 States Court of Claims in the case of *Indians of California v. United*  
13 *States* (1942) 98 Ct.Cl. 583; and

14 WHEREAS, Since the Choinumni Tribe is not listed as an  
15 Indian tribe eligible to receive federal programs set aside for  
16 Native American tribes, and therefore the Choinumni Tribe cannot  
17 participate in health, education, and social programs provided by  
18 the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service; and

19 WHEREAS, The Choinumni Tribe has long been in a position  
20 of poverty that can only be corrected by federal recognition; and

21 WHEREAS, The Choinumni Tribe has been working since  
22 1959 for federal recognition, including a 1987 application that is  
23 still pending; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*  
25 *jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the  
26 President and the Congress, and the Assistant Secretary for Indian  
27 Affairs in the United States Department of the Interior to grant the  
28 Choinumni Tribe full federal recognition and all the rights and  
29 privileges that arise from that declaration, including listing the  
30 tribe in the Federal Register under the relevant provisions of the  
31 Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (Public Law  
32 103-454), Title I; and be it further

33 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
34 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
35 States, to each Senator and Representative from California in the  
36 Congress of the United States, and to the Assistant Secretary for  
37 Indian Affairs in the United States Department of the Interior.

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