



2017 Winter Convention Grand Mound, WA

RESOLUTION #17 - 14

"CALLING ON STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES TO REVIEW AND REVISE MITIGATION PROTOCOLS AND TO REFORM THE PROCESS FOR THEIR ADOPTION, RELATED TO EXISTING AND PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS"

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest 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 rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of federally recognized American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous approaches to mitigation for existing industries or proposed industrial developments of which in many cases can be considered inappropriate; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable disconnect with numerous State, and Federal agencies' approach to the development of mitigation associated with existing or proposed new industrial developments; and

WHEREAS, mitigation is required by a spectrum of federal, state, and local agencies without a holistic and true evaluation of natural or cultural properties lost or in danger; and

WHEREAS, in many cases mitigation is developed by individuals who are not qualified or do not have the expertise to fully understand an industrial projects impacts or potential impacts to the environment; and

WHEREAS, some mitigation measures are just simply buying into a mitigation bank that is located well outside of the industrial project impact area thus creating a false sense on the part of the industry that they are fully mitigating for their impacts; and

WHEREAS, it can be demonstrated in other cases where mitigation is inappropriately influenced by political interests; and

WHEREAS, many large projects have been built or proposed without any mitigation or without sufficient mitigation protocols that truly offset project impacts or fail to consider the natural system as a whole where the damage is occurring or likely to occur due to industrial activities; and

WHEREAS, federally recognized tribes are stewards of the land and well suited to consider project impacts for review, and in many cases provide mitigation options that better serve to protect First Foods and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal agencies need to work closer in coordination with federally recognized tribes on mitigation concerns in order to protect sacred resources to the tribes; and

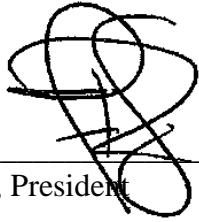
WHEREAS, effective and meaningful mitigation results in stronger and more resilient ecosystems and protection to sensitive tribal resources; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon federal and state agencies to work together with federally recognized tribes in a process evaluating and reforming mitigation protocols that are used by those agencies in determining if existing or proposed industrial projects are adequately mitigating their impact(s) to the environment or cultural resources, through the following process:

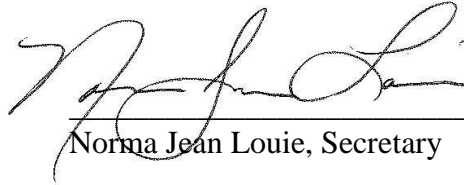
- (a) Conduct a comprehensive review of the adequacy of those protocols;
- (b) Reform the process for adopting new mitigation standards; and
- (c) Work to adopt new or amended mitigation standards.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, Washington January 23-26, 2017, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary