



2017 Mid-Year Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #17 – 34

“SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN THE BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND ALL NATIONAL MONUMENTS UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES ACT”

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 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, the Bears Ears National Monument was established in 2016 encompassing 1.35 million acres of public lands surrounding San Juan County's Cedar Mesa, located in the state of Utah and southwest region, and named after the pair of buttes protruding from a ridge joining the mesa and the Abajo Mountains; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument is considered a sacred site to Native American Tribes with its ancient cliff dwellings, abundant rock art, ceremonial sites and countless artifacts which provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record of our Native life, our culture, our history, and the protection sacred lands and the natural resources of the Ute Mountain Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, Hopi Nation, and the Zuni Tribe; and

WHEREAS, these Tribes are the inhabitants of a land that was once covered by water where coral reefs grew, and where paleontological resources in the Bears Ears National Monument are among the richest and most significant in the United States; and

WHEREAS, from earth to sky, the Bears Ears National Monument is unsurpassed in wonders with the oral history of Tribal creation stories and scientific documentation of artistry and architecture that has withstood thousands of seasons in harsh climates and where today Tribal members still hunt and forage for food and medicine; and

WHEREAS, the United States Antiquities Act authorizes the President of the United States to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other landmarks, objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be a national monument; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument was established utilizing the collaborative government to government relationship with the affected Tribes; now

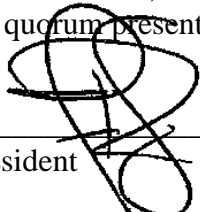
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI stands with the five Tribes of the Utah area as they fight to protect the Bear Ears Monument to preserve this prehistoric site, this sacred land, this ceremonial site, this cultural legacy, and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources for the Tribes and all future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the proclamation establishing the Bears Ears National Monument and opposes any further congressional action to reverse any National Monuments established under the Antiquities Act; and

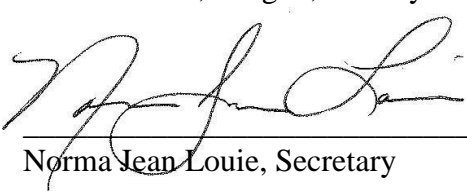
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to members of Congress from the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, California, Alaska; the Ute Mountain Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, Hopi Nation, and the Zuni Tribes; and to the President of the United States.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Double Tree by Hilton - Portland, Oregon, on May 23-26, 2017, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary