



## **2018 Winter Convention Portland, OR**

### **RESOLUTION #18 - 13**

#### **“ENSURING FARM BILL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS”**

##### **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**, since time immemorial the fisheries of ATNI tribes have served as the foundation of their cultural identity and economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the United State Congress is currently considering the reauthorization of the Farm Bill, including conservation programs administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and

**WHEREAS**, pollution and habitat degradation have been a major cause in the decline of tribal fishery resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the impacts from commercial farming operations have contributed to the decline of these fishery resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the USDA provides federal funding to enhance the conservation efforts of farming operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has a treaty obligation and a trust responsibility to protect tribal fishery resources; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby request that the United States Congress amend the Farm Bill to ensure that conservation programs administered by the USDA are used to protect and restore critical fishery habitat wherever possible.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2018 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Portland, Oregon, on January 22-25, 2018, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary