



## **2018 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon**

### **RESOLUTION #18 - 16**

#### **“SUPPORT FOR THE WASHINGTON STATE REVITALIZATION BOARD”**

#### **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 ATNI Telecommunications Committee has been working diligently to address the lack of access to infrastructure that provides high speed internet and cell phone coverage in rural native communities; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI member Tribes have made significant progress to inform, educate and advocate on broadband needs to the United States Congress as well as State Legislatures, the impact on Tribal economic development from the lack of broadband access; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) in Washington State is authorized to make rural broadband loans to local governments and to federally recognized Indian tribes for the purposes of financing the cost to build infrastructure for high-speed, open-access broadband service to rural and underserved communities, for the purpose of community economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, a legislative request in the amount of \$10 million from the State Taxable Building Construction Account is being considered in the State of Washington 2017-2018 legislative session; and

**WHEREAS**, this will empower the CERB Board to make grants and loans to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes to build infrastructure to provide high-speed, open-access broadband service to rural and underserved communities for the purpose of economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of these new investments is to support public broadband infrastructure, high-speed development, open access broadband in rural and underserved communities and to stimulate community and economic development; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI fully supports the \$10 million budget increase to the State of Washington Community Economic Revitalization Board to support rural broadband development.

#### **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