



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

### **RESOLUTION #18 - 19**

#### **“HIGHWAY TRUST FUND SOLVENCY”**

##### **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**, on December 4, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, or FAST Act, (Pub. L. No. 114-94), a five-year surface transportation measure (through 2020), which authorizes rising spending levels for highway construction, safety improvements, and transit, to benefitted Indian Country; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI adopted Resolution #16-55, Support for Secure Funding of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), the source of funding for most federal surface transportation programs, to ensure that the HTF has the funds necessary to deliver the promises made to Indian Country within the FAST Act; and

**WHEREAS**, transportation infrastructure on Indian reservations and in Alaska Native Villages is inadequate and unsafe; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has long recognized that roads promote economic development and help Indian tribes provide vital governmental services, which are essential for healthy and vibrant tribal communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Highway Trust Fund derives its revenue from a fixed amount of tax on fuel sales, and was last increased to 18.4 cents per gallon in 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, from 2016 to 2025, the transit and highway accounts are projected to face a cumulative deficit of \$168 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, the fund is now insolvent with revenue declining as a result of more fuel-efficient vehicles and fewer vehicle miles traveled; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby urge Congress to increase the fuel tax one cent each year for the next 30 years in order to provide sufficient funding to bring the Highway Trust Fund out of insolvency.

#### **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