



2019 Mid-Year Convention Airway Heights, Washington

RESOLUTION #19 - 35

“SUPPORT FOR EXEMPTING THE TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FROM FEDERAL OBLIGATION LIMITATIONS”

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, ATNI recognizes that transportation infrastructure is vital to all Indian reservations and Alaska Native Villages; and

WHEREAS, federal appropriations for the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), BIA Indian Highway Safety Program, TTP Safety Grant Program, and BIA Road Maintenance

Program are wholly inadequate to address documented unmet tribal transportation infrastructure and highway safety needs; and

WHEREAS, these unmet needs perpetuate transportation barriers for American Indians and Alaska Natives, undermine the efforts by Tribal governments to address continuing disparities between the general population and Native communities as concerns of; access to higher education, public safety, health services and economic opportunity, and, limit the ability of Tribal governments, as “public authorities,” to meaningfully collaborate with Federal, State, and other local governments regarding Tribal transportation infrastructure and safety needs; and

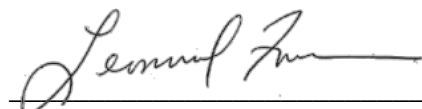
WHEREAS, the Congress has long recognized that roads promote economic development and help Indian tribes provide vital governmental services, which are essential for healthy, vibrant and stable tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recognizes that obligation limitations imposed by the federal government on the Tribal Transportation Program further impair the problem of underfunding; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the exemption of the Tribal Transportation Program from the Federal Obligation Limitations and to advocate to Congress and the Administration for this inclusion in a National Infrastructure measure to remedy the ongoing unmet transportation needs in Indian Country.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2019 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Airway Heights, Washington on May 20-23, 2019, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary