



**2019 Mid-Year Convention
Airway Heights, Washington**

RESOLUTION #19 - 37

**“URGE EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT OF CHEMAWA INDIAN SCHOOL
BY BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION”**

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, Chemawa Indian School is one of four off-reservation boarding schools operating under the Bureau of Indian Education, U.S. Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, over the years the ATNI has reviewed and assessed the various facets of the Chemawa School Operations and findings have been reported to the General Assembly with

suggestions for improvement and strengthening the educational outcomes for the high school students; and

WHEREAS, the Chemawa School Board's request for new construction funds for relocating the school and building new dormitories and new classrooms was successful, and the old site was abandoned; and

WHEREAS, today, the school operations are faltering in their delivery of high-quality educational services and a safe campus, as reported by the Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) in a five (5) part series; and

WHEREAS, the OPB report (<http://www.opb.org/news/series/chemawa/>) is the result of almost three (3) years of reporting by OPB reporters which drew the attention of Oregon's congressional delegation and motivated them to call for a Hearing before the House Committee on Natural Resources which has oversight over the U.S. Department of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon delegation are rightfully concerned for its' citizens, including the students, and the marginal education services currently being provided at the school; and

WHEREAS, the historical geographic service area includes the Northwest states with students enrolled throughout Indian Country, thus the Chemawa Indian School alumni are widespread and within the purview of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; now

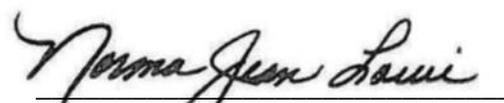
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the tribes to advocate for full funding and accountability for Chemawa Indian School including, but not limited to improved curriculum, student support services, safe campus, and certified professional personnel to support students who may not be achieving satisfactory progress; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the Bureau of Indian Education to take the necessary steps for effective oversight and accountability of the Chemawa Indian School administration, staff, operations and maintenance as well as training to empower the school board to provide reports to ATNI of the ongoing progress.

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