



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington

RESOLUTION #08 - 08

SUPPORTING AN INTER-TRIBAL ALLIANCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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 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 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, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, climate change is one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time, with strong impacts on air, water, land and the overall ecosystem. Indian tribes are facing the immediate, adverse impacts of climate change. Tribes in the Pacific Northwest are being forced to consider alternatives to the salmon on which they have subsisted for centuries; and

WHEREAS, in light of global and local initiatives to address climate change, tribal governments need to assert their rights for a "place at the table" to protect and advance their territorial sovereignty and their rights to substantively participate in the development of domestic and international policies that concern efforts to combat or mitigate for climate change; and

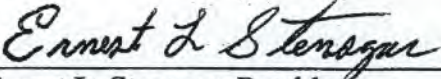
WHEREAS, tribal governments have the opportunity now to protect their interests and rights, to play a role in reducing their emissions as part of the global response to climate change, and to shape policy discussions and future regulatory systems; and

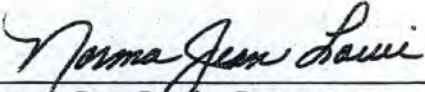
WHEREAS, the Quinault Indian Nation invites interested tribes to forge an Alliance on Climate Change that can enable tribes to play an active role in the emerging debates over climate change by establishing a platform of principles to guide tribal participation in matters pertaining to climate change and by establishing an inter-tribal communication network for sharing information and expertise on climate change; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians supports the creation of an Alliance on Climate Change and supports the securing of funding to aid the creation of such an Alliance.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Washington on January 25, 2008, with a quorum present.


Ernest L. Stensgar, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary