



2018 Mid-Year Convention Toppenish, Washington

RESOLUTION #18 - 25

“SUPPORT AND ACTION FOR OUR TWO SPIRIT RELATIVES”

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; now

WHEREAS, the ATNI Youth Committee is a sub-committee of ATNI Education Committee established to address issues of importance to youth across ATNI region; and

WHEREAS, over the last year, the youth have intentionally learned, listened and discussed issues impacting two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and, transgender tribal youth, young adults, adults, elders and their families; and

WHEREAS, the principle of non-discrimination is embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, in Articles 2, 7, and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Articles 2, 3, 14, 25 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, and the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People; and

WHEREAS, all citizens and members of our member tribes are born free and equal in dignity and rights; and

WHEREAS, prior to contact with the colonizers, many tribal nations across the country and continent had long histories of respect and inclusion of those in their communities who might now be described as two spirit lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, third or fourth gender; and

WHEREAS, youth have identified being related to or caring about a two-spirit person in their lives, and wish to ensure that their mental, physical, spiritual and emotional health and wellness needs are met; and

WHEREAS, many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, third and fourth gender or two spirit ancestors and citizens of our tribes and nations have been targets of homophobia and transphobia, carrying with it extremely harmful and even lethal effects; these disparities lead to cumulative outcomes that affect every area of life; and

WHEREAS, our member tribes and nations are unwaveringly committed to all causes that strengthen the health of our tribal citizens, families, communities, and nations; and

WHEREAS, two spirit youth experience increased levels of bullying, truancy, incarceration, addiction, homelessness, self harm, attempted suicide, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, family, community and tribal policies that reflect acceptance make a difference in the lives and lived experience of two spirit people and families; now

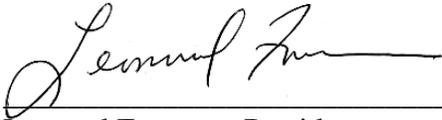
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI declares its support of the full equality of all tribal persons, including two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender tribal citizens, in the interest of furthering the cause of human rights and the principle of nondiscrimination for all our citizens wherever they reside; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI commits to promoting the principle of nondiscrimination and to supporting and strengthening individuals, families, communities and our tribes and nations - we commit to community trainings to support conversations in tribal communities so that we can respectfully talk about how to address disparities and bring more health, healing and belonging to our people; and

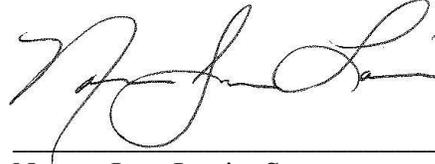
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI supports its member tribes to pursue governmental policies such as those outlined in the *Tribal Equity Toolkit 3.0: Tribal Resolutions and Codes for Two Spirit and LGBT Justice in Indian Country* along with NCAI and the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2018 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Legends Casino Hotel - Toppenish, Washington, on May 21-24, 2018, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary