



**2020 Winter Convention
Portland, Oregon**

RESOLUTION #2020 - 12

**“CALLING ON THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR CONSULTATION
ON PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY ACT (NEPA)”**

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 (AI/AN) 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, the Council on Environmental Quality proposed major regulatory changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on January 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, tribal trust resources and tribal rights could be threatened by the proposed changes to environmental review by the January 10, 2020 rule changes; and

WHEREAS, the Council for Environmental Quality cites a need to facilitate more efficient, effective, and timely NEPA reviews; and

WHEREAS, NEPA regulations and guidance have in fact been frequently updated with focus on clarification, timeliness, and brevity; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Environmental Quality proposal shows an attempt to significantly restrict reviews spatially and temporally; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes are likely to substantially restrict environmental review and consideration of related impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Environmental Quality proposal can likely be contrary to the meaning and intent of NEPA; and

WHEREAS, ATNI would like to understand how the Council on Environmental Quality has established its legal burden to make substantive changes to the meaning and intent of lawfully approved Congressional legislation; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Executive Order 13175, ATNI does hereby respectfully call upon the Council on Environmental Quality to consult with tribes on its regulatory proposal to change regulations under NEPA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI wants to know how the proposed NEPA regulatory changes may impact treaty and/or trust resources of the tribes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI is opposed to NEPA regulatory changes that would diminish protections for culturally significant resources of the Tribes.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2020 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Portland, Oregon, on January 27-30, 2020, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary