



**2020 Winter Convention  
Portland, Oregon**

**RESOLUTION #2020 - 13**

**“SUPPORTING THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT THE  
WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS ACT”**

**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**, Washington State has experienced catastrophic wildfires in recent years; and

**WHEREAS**, such fires have destroyed life, property, and culturally significant resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington tribal trust resources and tribal rights are threatened by increased wildfire risks associated with forest disease and climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington tribal leaders have expressed concerns that wildfire extent and severity is destroying trust resources and impacting air and water quality for all species; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI Tribes have actively managed forests since time immemorial which has provided the knowledge base to restore current forest health; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State legislature has drafted legislation which may be known as the “Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Act;” and

**WHEREAS**, forest health conditions will require sustained and long-term investments in order to reverse our forest health and wildlife crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed act would dedicate funding to improve the health and resiliency of Washington’s forests; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports state-wide forest health and fire protection activities on all Tribal, Federal, State, and private forests with the knowledge that these activities will be conducted in part with tribal governments and protect tribal resources from catastrophic fire loss; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports and encourages the Washington State Legislature to adopt a “Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Act.”

**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