



## **2020 Mid-Year Virtual Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #2020 – 22**

#### **“CONDEMNING THE CURRENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION’S DEREGULATION OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS”**

#### **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**, the federal government’s environmental policy agenda has set several deregulatory processes in action; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has rescinded human health criteria for Washington State and removed human health protections specifically adopted to protect tribal communities with significant fish-based subsistence diets; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has proposed revisions to the Clean Water Act Section 401, reducing States' and Tribes' authority to set conditions under the Section 401 authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act criteria for listing, delisting, and critical habitat determinations, which change critical definitions from science-based, known criteria, to vague and confusing criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has proposed revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act to strip the Act of its guiding and defining language, limit comment scope by requiring high specificity and lower requirements for Agency response, and enhance the role of the Executive Order in how NEPA will be utilized in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI observes a threat to natural and cultural resources and risk from the deregulatory actions; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government's actions undermine decades of incremental and affirmative environmental protections advocated by numerous tribes; and

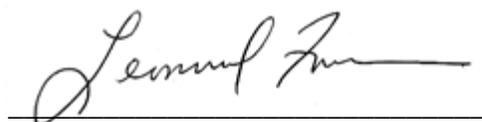
**WHEREAS**, the federal government continues to aggressively roll back environmental regulations despite the COVID-19 crisis; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby call upon Tribal nations throughout the United States to unite against the federal government's current policy of deregulating critical protections of our environment.

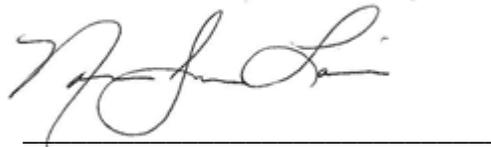
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby call upon all federal agencies to cease deregulation of critical protections for our environment.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2020 Virtual Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on June 30 – July 2, 2020, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary