



2020 Virtual Annual Convention

RESOLUTION # 2020 - 33

“ENDORING FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN AND SENATOR KAMALA HARRIS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES”

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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians strongly supports former Vice-President Joseph Biden’s campaign to become the 46th President of the United States and believes he is the most promising leader that can protect and unify the Country and who understands and will stand for tribal rights; and

WHEREAS, as a former Senator, Joe Biden authored the Violence Against Women Act, including provisions to address violence against Native Women and further expanded the Act as Vice-President to expand and strengthen tribal sovereignty by allowing tribes to exercise greater criminal jurisdiction over non-members in certain circumstances; he understood that tribes cannot protect their communities from domestic violence, sexual assault, and other similar crimes, which plague tribal communities, without restoring tribal authority to prosecute non-members who commit such crimes within each tribe's territory; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Vice-President under President Barack Obama, Biden proved that he understood issues affecting tribes and was committed to government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations, thereby developing a very progressive political platform and agenda to meet the needs of Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, in the selection for a Vice-Presidential running mate, Joe Biden chose Senator Kamala Harris, who has whole-heartedly agreed to adopt and fulfill the commitments adopted by the Biden Campaign to defend tribal sovereignty and will seek to advance self-governance opportunities; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI is actively seeking to support and elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as President and Vice-President of the United States and encourages its Member Tribes to join in getting out the vote on November 3, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of our organization until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2020 Virtual Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on October 5 – 8, 2020, with a quorum present.

Leonard Forsman, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary