



## **2020 Virtual Annual Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #2020 – 45**

#### **“WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY WATER RIGHTS ADJUDICATION BUDGET”**

#### **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**, one of the challenges for the Washington State Department of Ecology’s (DOE) Water Resources Program is to manage water supplies that will be needed for people, fish and habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, DOE is tasked with securing sufficient water for the basic needs of fish and habitat while identifying additional water supplies to meet the needs of people and the economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of DOE is to move toward greater certainty regarding water rights to reduce conflicts and streamline water right permitting decisions while adapting to increasing demands from climate change impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, Tribes and DOE would like to bring long-standing water right permit applications to closure to reduce this uncertainty; and

**WHEREAS**, progress has been made in certain geographic areas, but Tribes may wish to pursue water rights adjudications in other areas where feasible and appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Supreme Court has been supportive of tribal treaty rights and the Washington State Superior Court has historically prioritized water use rights from oldest to newest; and

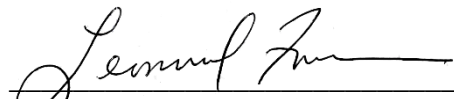
**WHEREAS**, that ATNI supports adequate funding for DOE to address this task in future budget requests proposed by the Governor and ultimately enacted by the Washington State Legislature; now

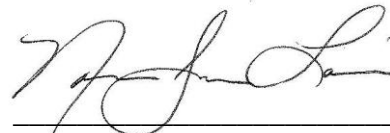
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls on the Governor and the Washington State Legislature to provide adequate funding for DOE’s water rights adjudication program; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI respectfully requests DOE’s budget submitted for adjudications be approved.

**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