



## **2020 Annual Virtual Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #2020 - 46**

#### **“SUPPORT FOR THE WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BOARD”**

#### **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 ATNI Telecommunications Committee has been working diligently to address the lack of access to infrastructure that provides high speed internet and cell phone coverage in rural native communities; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI member Tribes have made significant progress to inform, educate and advocate on broadband needs to the United States Congress as well as State Legislatures, the impact on Tribal economic development from the lack of broadband access; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) in Washington State is authorized to make economic development loans and grants, which includes funding for rural broadband infrastructure to local governments and to federally recognized Indian tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, CERB's Legislative Members have submitted proposed legislation to codify the Board's rural broadband program; and

**WHEREAS**, the codification of this program into RCW 43.160 will make this a core function of CERB; and

**WHEREAS**, this will give stability and confidence to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes, as they are planning for future broadband projects, that there is a permanent funding mechanism for them to access; and

**WHEREAS**, CERB has submitted a capital budget legislative request in the amount of \$40 million (\$25 million Core CERB and \$15 million Rural Broadband) which will allow CERB to continue funding community and economic development infrastructure projects and increase project development opportunities for local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes; and


**WHEREAS**, this will empower CERB to continue making grants and loans to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes to build public infrastructure, which includes high-speed, open-access broadband service to rural and underserved communities for the purpose of community and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, given the increased demand for community and economic development infrastructure funding, without requested funding of \$40 million, CERB's funding will not last through the 2021-2023 biennium; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI fully supports the \$40 million budget increase and codification of the rural broadband program for the State of Washington Community Economic Revitalization Board to support future community and economic development infrastructure investments.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

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

  
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Leonard Forsman, President

  
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Norma Jean Loue, Secretary