



## **2021 Virtual Winter Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #2021 – 01**

#### **URGE STATE EDUCATION AGENCIES TO PROVIDE FISCAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS CLIMATE EDUCATION**

#### **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 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 ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, our greatest responsibility and also our greatest asset is our youth; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI acknowledges that our environment is in a state of emergency and while we work to save it for future generations, we must also prepare the youth to live in an environment that will be far different from the one we grew up in; and

**WHEREAS**, vast fiscal resources and thousands of dedicated and knowledgeable educators are employed and developed to teach our youth based on standards-based learning and assessments; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a growing gap between what is taught in school and what youth need to learn to be prepared for an uncertain future; and

**WHEREAS**, too often, the materials provided, and the teaching practices required by school governing bodies are not preparing our youth for the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic has forced many to experiment with new materials and alternate ways of teaching and learning and that out of this tragedy, the best materials and ways of teaching can be identified and shared; and

**WHEREAS**, our unique tribal communities and students have diverse interests and needs that can be best met if resources and decision-making are controlled by the tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the state governments of the Northwest region must commit to climate justice in efforts to address climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the right to self-determination is acknowledged under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, self-determination includes the rights of designing learning to center Indigenous education and knowledge systems based on inter-generational learning; and

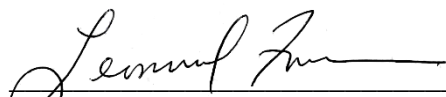
**WHEREAS**, collaborations with non-Indigenous peoples must ensure tribal decision-making powers, particularly in the education of our youth and communities; and


**WHEREAS**, Tribal Nations within ATNI have a history of work in climate justice and related learning and must continue to share more deeply across the region with each other; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges the support of fiscal resources from the state education agencies and legislatures in the region to promote respectful and equitable collaborations with, among, and led by Tribal Nations on climate education and climate centered learning experiences for the youth and communities.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2021 Virtual Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on January 25-28, 2021, with a quorum approving.

  
Leonard Forsman, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary