



2021 Virtual Winter Convention

RESOLUTION #2021 – 07

POSITION ON WASHINGTON STATE HB 1018 CONCERNING BOATER EDUCATION LAW

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, in 2021 the Washington State House of Representatives Community & Economic Development Committee introduced HB 1018 “Concerning boater education”; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature’s own Bill Analysis states the following: “Boater Education Program. The Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) is required to establish and implement a program to provide required boating safety education. The Commission must establish a minimum standard of boater safety accomplishment”; and

WHEREAS, “The Commission must also adopt minimum standards for boating safety education courses of instruction and examination and approve or provide accreditation to boating safety education courses” and

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WHEREAS, “to obtain a boater education card, a boater must provide a certificate of accomplishment issued by a boater educator for taking and passing an accredited boating safety education course, or equivalency exam, or provide proof of completion of a course that meet the standard adopted by the Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission is required to charge a fee of \$10 for a boater education card”; and

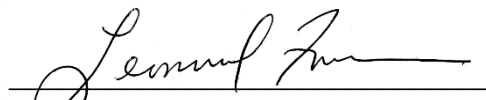
WHEREAS, requiring such a card for participants in the intertribal canoe journey interferes with the culture and traditions surrounding this activity; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a certified training program and boaters’ card test cannot by its very nature reasonably train and test for all kinds of water travel knowledge and skills; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI opposes HB 1018 as it interferes with cultural and traditional practices and human propelled boats and vessels.

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