



## **2021 Mid-Year Virtual Convention**

### **RESOLUTION #21 - 12**

#### **“ENCOURAGING ATNI MEMBER TRIBES TO APPROVE THEIR LETTER OF INTENT FOR THE STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT INITIATIVE”**

#### **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 provisions in the American Rescue Plan, signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021, is an amendment to the State Small Business Credit Initiative Act of 2021 (SSBCI) approved under the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, the original 2010 SSBCI did not have provisions for Tribes or Tribal organizations to directly access these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, these current amendments allocate \$500 million to Tribal governments for “small business credit support and investment programs;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Treasury is providing allocations to States and is expected to announce the allocation formula for Tribal governments in the month of June 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, a completed Notice of Intent to Apply for the 2021 SSBCI program will be due from Tribal governments to the Department of Treasury on July 30, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Treasury has conducted an information session on May 13, 2021, and will hold a Tribal Consultation on the SSBCI Program on May 27, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, officials of the Department of Treasury participated in a presentation and breakout session at this ATNI Mid-Year Convention to provide information on the SSBCI program to help Tribes to determine their course; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasury schedule is to ask Tribes for formal applications on the SSBCI Program by December 11, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the resources could result in a significant injection of needed funds and resources to grow Indian-owned small businesses across Indian Country; and

**WHEREAS**, there is sufficient time to plan full proposal(s) for maximal value; and

**WHEREAS**, the ATNI Economic Development Corporation and the Northwest Native Lending Network have interacted with various industry partners such as the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development and the Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Network on the value of these small business resources and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, those conversations are pointing to the possibility of creative delivery mechanisms and that Native CDFI’s are ideally suited to maximize those resources, which could culminate in a regional partnership; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby encourage its member Tribes to favorably consider approving their Tribe’s Notice of Intent by July 30, 2021; and

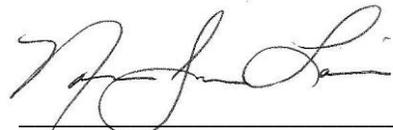
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Northwest Native Lending Network and other industry partners will collaborate to provide guidance and support to Tribes who choose to participate in a regional or stand-alone applications to support small business programs; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Northwest Native Lending Network will present a draft proposal to the ATNI 2021 Annual Convention for consideration and potential action.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2021 Virtual Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on May 24 – May 27, 2021, with a quorum present.

  
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Leonard Forsman, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary