



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

### **RESOLUTION #2021 – 13**

#### **“ IMMEDIATE ELEVATION OF THE OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ”**

#### **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**, the Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2020 (PL 116-261) became law on December 30, 2020, elevating the Director of the Office of Native American Business Development (ONABD) to report directly to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and authorizing the ONABD its own budget of \$2 million annually; and


**WHEREAS**, at least \$2 million should be allocated immediately to elevate the ONABD, install a Director, and launch enhanced operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the ONABD's enhanced and expanded operation is supported by eleven (11) leading organizations representing interests of American Indian and Alaskan Native Governments as evidenced by joint letter sent to Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce on April 23, 2021; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports the immediate elevation and funding to make fully operational the Office of Native American Business Development with its Director reporting directly to the Secretary of Commerce.

**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