



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

### **RESOLUTION #2021 – 14**

#### **“ SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS ”**

#### **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**, Senators John Hickenlooper (D-CO) and Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) introduced the bipartisan bill, S. 1735, the Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) Enhancement Act of 2021, to codify and formally authorize the ONAA within the Small Business Administration (SBA), and for other purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, as S. 1735 authorizes the ONAA its own budget of at least \$5 million to staff and coordinate with other offices within SBA and key Cabinet-level Departments to direct federal resources in more targeted ways to Indian Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, Alaskan and Native Hawaiian communities, and native small businesses across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, S. 1735 properly charges the ONAA to direct SBA’s Native American Outreach activities to formulate and promote policies, programs and assistance that better address the entrepreneurial, capital access, business development and contracting needs of tribes and native businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill is supported by the leading national organizations representing interests of American Indian and Alaskan Native Governments as evidenced by the joint letter to leaders of the United States Senate urging prompt passage; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports enactment of the SBA’s “ONAA Enhancement Act of 2021” to formally establish and staff an Office of Native American Affairs to deliver funding resources for small business assistance to Indian Country; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall be submitted to the National Congress of American Indians.

**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