



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

### **RESOLUTION #2021 – 24**

#### **“WASHINGTON STATE CULVERT REPLACEMENT”**

#### **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 (AI/AN) 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**, the State of Washington is presently under a federal injunction to replace culverts that impede fish passage; and

**WHEREAS**, although the State of Washington is now actively pursuing remedies for culvert replacement, funding has yet to be appropriated to completely replace and enhance the identified culverts; and

**WHEREAS**, it is vital that the State of Washington move with haste to replace the identified culverts by securing culvert replacement funding and streamline the process the State uses to permit, award and remove culverts; and

**WHEREAS**, if Washington State does not improve their process for replacing the identified culverts it will take more than a decade to replace all the culverts and the cost of replacement will dramatically escalate; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal communities have been significantly harmed by culverts that are fish barriers and tribes were the participants to the lawsuit against the State of Washington and therefore should be given priority in participating in the replacement of the identified culverts; and

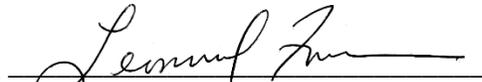
**WHEREAS**, tribal contractors and skilled TERO workers are now ready to have a meaningful share in the over \$3 billion culvert replacement program, using the Capacity Building Mentorship program; now

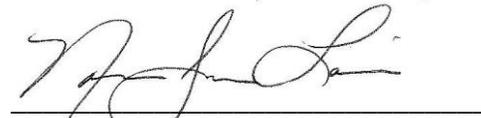
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that ATNI urges the Washington State legislature to fully fund and expedite the removal of culverts that are barriers to fish passage by the end of the 2022 legislative session; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges the Washington State legislature to streamline their award, permitting and contractor selection process and ensure that the State engage in effective and meaningful inclusion of tribal contractors and TERO workers through outreach using agreed upon development plans, joining the established Capacity Building Mentorship program, with the goal of awarding to tribal contractors and Indian owned, subcontractors and TERO workers participation on Fish Barrier Removal projects.

**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.

  
Leonard Forsman, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary