



2021 Mid-Year Virtual Convention

RESOLUTION #2021 – 25

“FEDERAL AND STATE TRANSPORTATION PACKAGES”

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, dangerous road conditions on Indian reservations have resulted in serious fatalities: For example, from 2015-2019 more than 50% of Native American traffic deaths in Washington State occurred on county roads and other roads on reservations, versus 25% of all other races; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Pacific Northwest experienced devastating floods, which washed away roads, culverts, and damaged bridges and highways in Indian Country, and neither

the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) nor the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) have made significant efforts to repair and restore these roads; and

WHEREAS, for example in the past 10 years Slater Road, one of two routes used for used for evacuation and in emergency services for the Lummi Nation, has been closed for lengthy periods of time due to flooding; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the serious transportation infrastructure deficiencies in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, most roads on reservations were engineered and built primarily in rural areas at a time when traffic volumes were significantly lower which has led to roads being seriously functionally deficient; and

WHEREAS, reservation lands are largely inaccessible and don't offer adequate transportation choices across all modes of transportation; now

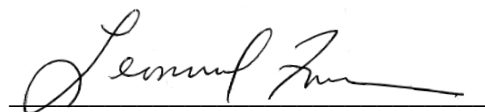
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to fulfill their trust responsibility, to establish and fully fund an infrastructure and transportation package that includes the needs of tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Pacific Northwest Governors and Legislatures must establish and fully fund transportation programs in all infrastructure and transportation bills that includes the needs of tribes; and

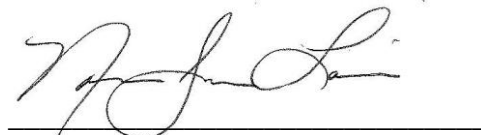
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI urges State governments and the Federal government to promptly pass a transportation package that addresses the critical infrastructure and transportation needs of tribes throughout the Pacific Northwest.

CERTIFICATION

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



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary