



2022 Virtual Winter Convention

RESOLUTION #2022 – 04

“TO SUPPORT PROVIDING FEDERAL PENSION AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS”

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, federal funding for tribal law enforcement services in Indian country is and has been a fraction of the actual, which has resulted in most Indian tribes supplementing their tribal law enforcement budgets to provide a minimum level of police services; and

WHEREAS, the lack of federal funding has meant that Indian tribes often must sacrifice providing salaries that are competitive with state and local police agencies to have as many law enforcement officers on the ground as possible; and

WHEREAS, Indian tribes that are able to pay competitive tribal law enforcement officer salaries often struggle with recruitment and retention because tribal law enforcement officers do not have access to federal pension and retirement benefits and, in most cases, state pension and retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS; Indian tribes would have a better ability to recruit and retain tribal law enforcement officers if tribal law enforcement officers were able to accrue federal pension and retirement benefits for federal law enforcement officers for each year of service as a tribal law enforcement officer; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports efforts, whether legislative or administrative, that would result in tribal law enforcement officers being able to accrue federal pension and retirement benefits for federal law enforcement officers for each year of service as a tribal law enforcement officer.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2022 Virtual Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on January 24-27, 2022, with a quorum approving.

Leonard Forsman, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary