



## 2022 Virtual Winter Convention

### RESOLUTION #2022 –06

#### “SUPPORTING THE ‘ADVANCING TRIBAL PARITY AND PUBLIC LANDS ACT’”

### 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**, various federal laws authorize the conveyance of federal public lands to state or local governments or to non-profit organizations, for public purposes, but these laws generally do not include tribal governments as eligible recipients for conveyance;

**WHEREAS**, because tribal governments are not afforded the same opportunities as state or local governments or nonprofit organizations to acquire land that federal agencies dispose of, this often results in federal land that was formerly tribal land being transferred to non-tribal entities;

**WHEREAS**, since 2018, representatives from Indian tribes (including ATNI member tribes), tribal organizations, nonprofit organizations, and staff from the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have worked collaboratively to develop legislation to address these inequities and other issues related to the lack of parity in current law for addressing tribal interests in the disposal and conveyance of federal land;

**WHEREAS**, a discussion draft of legislation, the “Advancing Tribal Parity and Public Lands Act,” has been developed that would amend federal land management laws to: (1) improve protection to Native sacred places and tribal interests on federal lands; (2) acknowledge tribal government connections to these lands, providing tribes with a right of first refusal if/when federal lands are listed for transfer or disposal; (3) increase consultation requirements with tribal governments before federal agency take action on federal lands; (4) include tribal representatives to federal lands advisory councils; and (5) update public land laws to include Indian Tribes where the law acknowledges participation by “state or local governments”;

**WHEREAS**, tribal comments are currently being solicited on the draft bill with the intent that it be ready for introduction in the coming weeks;

**WHEREAS**, ATNI supports the goals of the “Advancing Tribal Parity and Public Lands Act” and the amendments it would make to federal laws to better ensure that tribal interests are considered when federal agencies intend to dispose of public land; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports the introduction in the House and the Senate of the “Advancing Tribal Parity and Public Lands Act;” and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI requests that the members of the congressional delegations in the states that include ATNI member tribes cosponsor the legislation and take whatever actions are necessary to secure its enactment into law.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Congress of American Indians.

### **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.

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Leonard Forsman, President

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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary