



2022 Mid-Year Convention Ferndale, WA

RESOLUTION #2022 – 10

Calling on Congress to Appropriate Sufficient Funding to Upgrade and Save the Nara Sand Point Facility

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, the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Sand Point facility located near Seattle, WA holds vast quantities of invaluable historic records that are incredibly important to ATNI members; and

WHEREAS, the NARA Sand Point facility is located in an area that is easily accessible to ATNI members; and

WHEREAS, the Public Buildings Reform Board (PBRB) had decided to sell NARA's Sand Point facility and relocate the archival documents far from Seattle, WA where accessing these important documents would become incredibly difficult for ATNI members; and

WHEREAS, the PBRB stated that the Sand Point facility needed to be sold under the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA) because the building was in a state of disrepair and that repairing the building would come at too great a cost; and

WHEREAS, tribes brought a lawsuit challenging the PBRB decision to sell the Sand Point facility; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington ruled that the PBRB failed to follow the requirements of FASTA and its duty to properly consult with tribes when making its decision to sell the Sand Point facility; and

WHEREAS, the court's ruling requires the PBRB to conduct meaningful and robust consultation with tribes, but after that the PBRB could still reach the same conclusion and sell the Sand Point facility; and

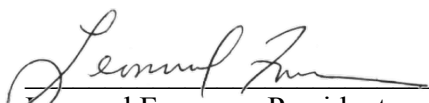
WHEREAS, the NARA Sand Point facility will remain in jeopardy, and with it tribal access to critical historical documentation, unless sufficient funding is appropriated to achieve the necessary repairs and upgrades that are required to allow it to continue to function; now

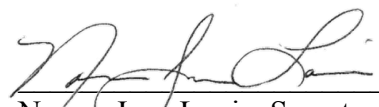
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the Congress to recognize the importance of the NARA Sand Point facility to tribes and protect tribal access to the facility and its historical records; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on Congress to appropriate sufficient funding for the specific purpose of upgrading the NARA Sand Point facility so that it can continue to operate.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2022 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Silver Reef Casino Resort, Ferndale, Washington, on May 16-19, 2022, with a quorum present.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary