



2022 Mid-Year Convention Ferndale, Washington

RESOLUTION #2022 - 12

Request Policy Revisions to the State Small Business Credit Initiative

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 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, one of the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021, amends and reauthorizes the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) approved in the Clinton Administration; and

WHEREAS, the original 2010 SSBCI did not have provisions for Tribes or Tribal organizations to directly access these resources; and

WHEREAS, these current amendments allocate \$500 million to Tribal governments for “small business credit support and investment programs”; and

WHEREAS, officials of the Department of Treasury participated in a presentation and breakout session at the 2021 virtual ATNI Mid-Year Convention to provide information on the SSBCI program to help Tribes decide their course; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI General Membership unanimously approved Resolution #21-12 to encourage ATNI member Tribes to approve and submit their initial Notices of Intent (NOI) and that the ATNI-EDC and the Northwest Native Lending Network will collaborate on available options for the SSBCI resources; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Treasury has conducted extensive group and individual meetings with Tribes, detailing the SSBCI program and providing guidance on obtaining respective allocations, as well as actively responding to requests to reschedule application deadlines, most recently to September 1st, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the resources could be a significant injection of needed resources to grow Indian-owned small businesses and viable private sector economic activity across Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI Economic Development Corporation and the Northwest Native Lending Network have interacted with ATNI member Tribes that have submitted NOIs to where there is an active project to combine a number of Tribal allocations under the ATNI Financial Services CDFI arm; and

WHEREAS, those conversations have provided policy perspectives to the Tribes and staff working through the SSBCI program requirement and challenges; now

WHEREAS, the SSBCI program’s design is at sufficient scale for States to leverage their existing administrative structures, existing lending resources, networks of banks, credit unions, and regional lenders, and numerous small business support organizations; now

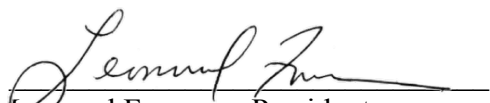
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that while there is gratitude to the Biden Administration for inclusion of the SSBCI in the American Rescue Plan Act legislation, ATNI have implementation concerns given the program was designed for U.S. States; and

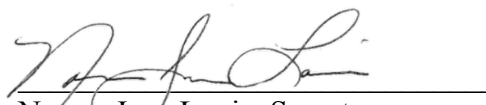
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSBCI program statutory standards limits flexibility for Tribes or the Treasury Department to consider workable solutions that would inject needed private sector capital into struggling Tribal communities that typically have few or none of the resources or organizations States can leverage; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the Biden Administration and Congress to engage Indian Country with potential approaches and solutions to maximize investment into private sector expansion for Tribal communities.

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