



2022 Mid-Year Convention Ferndale, Washington

RESOLUTION #2022 – 13

Calling Upon Congress To Recognize A Right Of Indigenous Economy

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, Indian nations and tribes are the original American sovereigns that predate the United States, vested with sovereign power derived from status as Indigenous nations;

WHEREAS, one of the most important inherent sovereign powers of an Indigenous nation is the ability to economically provide for the survival and growth of its people and its future generations; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous people and nations must be recognized to have full authority to engage in subsistence activities, commercial activities, and business development activities to generate employment and revenue without interference from outside governments; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides in Article 20 that “Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems and institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities”; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration further provides in Article 21 that “Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security”; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has a treaty, statutory, and trust responsibility to support Indigenous subsistence and economic development free from external interference; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000, Congress enacted legislation that found that “the capacity of Indian tribes to build strong Indian tribal governments and vigorous economies is hindered by the inability of Indian tribes to engage communities that surround Indian lands and outside investors in economic activities conducted on Indian lands” and that “the United States has an obligation to assist Indian tribes with the creation of appropriate economic and political conditions...to...facilitate economic development on Indian lands” (Pub. L. 106-447, 25 USC 4301); and

WHEREAS, the United States government, state governments, and local non-Indian governments have imposed regulatory burdens and dual taxation to interfere with the ability of Indigenous nations and Indigenous people to develop and sustain an economy; and

WHEREAS, the United States should take action to eliminate barriers to Indigenous economic development and develop protective regulatory rules governing Indian Country economic development, tribe-to-tribe trade, the rights of individual Indians to pursue economic opportunities pursuant to tribal and treaty recognized authority, and the activities of Indian traders doing business in Indian Country; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ATNI calls upon the Congress to enact legislation to fully implement Articles 20 and 21 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to recognize a Right of Indigenous Economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon the United States federal government to recognize and honor Articles 20 and 21 of the Declaration on the Rights of

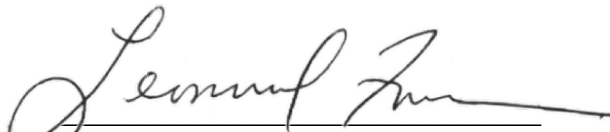
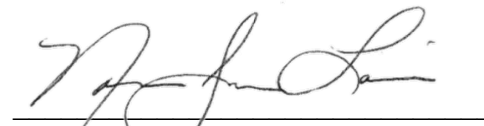
Indigenous Peoples and to take such action as necessary to recognize a Right of Indigenous Economy and to develop and modify such federal laws and regulations as are necessary to fully implement said Right and sovereign jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Indigenous people and Indigenous nations must be recognized to have full authority to engage in subsistence activities, commercial activities, and business development activities to generate employment and revenue without interference from outside governments; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to regional and national forums, not limited to the National Congress of American Indians, United South & Eastern Tribes, California Association of Tribal Governments, Native American Finance Officers Association, the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association, and the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes.

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