



2022 Mid-Year Convention Ferndale, Washington

RESOLUTION #2022 – 23

Supporting and thanking all the Leaders who have Heard the ATNI Tribes' Voices, and Especially the Biden-Harris Administration, and Senator Murray and Governor Inslee, for Steps they are taking toward Salmon and River Restoration in the Pacific Northwest, and toward Long-Ignored Tribal Justice for our Peoples and Homelands

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 modern Northwest with its massive irrigation, hydropower, and storage systems was built on the backs of tribal people from the 1930s on, through the use and destruction of the lands, rivers, and fisheries we have lived with for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, the United States shares a unique relationship with the Tribes of ATNI, with the United States being bound to honor the obligations to tribes made in Treaties, Executive Orders, and as a result of its trust responsibility to tribal sovereign nations; and

WHEREAS, the fate of our Tribes and the fate of Northwest salmon are intertwined; and

WHEREAS, ATNI, through Resolution #2021-23 adopted at the 2021 ATNI Virtual Mid-Year Convention, has emphasized the very real and imminent salmon and climate crises, and the long-ignored tribal justice crises facing the Pacific Northwest, and called on the President of the United States (POTUS) and the 117th Congress to seize this historic opportunity and chart a stronger, better future for the Northwest and bring long-ignored tribal justice to our peoples and homelands, specifically *“to ensure that funding is set aside now at this critical ecological juncture for salmon and orca, to implement the bold actions for salmon and river restoration identified in the framework of Congressman Simpson’s Energy and Salmon legislative proposal, including restoring the lower Snake River by breaching the four lower Snake River dams”* and *“to ensure that the salmon restoration priorities of the Tribes of ATNI are prioritized and funded”*; and

WHEREAS, since ATNI Resolution #2021-23, NCAI adopted resolution AK-21-009 amplifying ATNI Resolution #2021-23; and ATNI timely convened a Northwest Tribal Salmon and Orca Summit on July 7-8, 2021 to ensure the Tribes’ voices were heard by the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress; and a Tribal Salmon and Orca Summit in Washington, DC will be convened on July 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, since ATNI Resolution #2021-23, the Biden-Harris Administration entered into an interim agreement on interim fish passage operations for salmon and steelhead at the eight Columbia and Snake River Dams and staying the longstanding litigation through July 31, 2022, and issued an announcement that emphasized that: *“For the sake of everyone who lives in the Northwest, it is time to chart a more sustainable path in the Columbia River Basin,”* said White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory. *“This agreement opens an opportunity for States, Tribes, Federal agencies, Congress, and all stakeholders to work together to forge enduring solutions that are so badly needed. The Administration is committed to reaching a long-term solution in the region to restore salmon, honoring our commitments to Tribal Nations, ensuring reliable clean energy, and addressing the needs of stakeholders”*; and

WHEREAS, since ATNI Resolution #2021-23, U.S. Senator Murray and Governor Jay Inslee on October 22, 2021, issued a joint statement, *“announcing a joint federal-state process to determine whether there are reasonable means for replacing the benefits provided by the Lower Snake River Dams, sufficient to support breach as part of a salmon recovery strategy for the Snake River and the Pacific Northwest”*; and concluding that, *“Every community in the Pacific Northwest knows the value and importance of our iconic salmon runs—the time is now to take decisive action. We look forward to working with every community from every part of the Pacific Northwest and those on both sides of the aisle to finally establish a regional path forward to save the salmon”*; and

WHEREAS, since ATNI Resolution #2021-23, and immediately following U.S. Senator Murray and Governor Inslee’s announcement, Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkley emphasized that *“We look forward to working with Senator Murray and Governor Inslee as they build on previous efforts and bring all interested parties to the table to address salmon recovery, irrigation, dam use, as well as power and transportation needs”*; and

WHEREAS, since ATNI Resolution #2021-23, U.S. Senator Cantwell and Rep. Kilmer took the lead in securing dedicated federal funding for removing, restoring and replacing culverts that block salmon from passage to their habitat, and Senator Cantwell and the state of Washington have advanced the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Grid Storage launchpad to speed innovation and deployment of grid-scale energy technologies with Senator Cantwell stating that *“Energy storage is going to be one of the largest economic opportunities of the 21st century. By the end of 2030, analysts predict there will be 20 times more energy storage online than at the end of 2020”*; and

WHEREAS, since ATNI Resolution #2021-23, the Biden-Harris Administration has also taken steps to engage and consult with Columbia Basin Tribes, and on March 28, 2022, issued a White House Statement – signed by Secretary Deb Haaland (Department of the Interior), Secretary Jennifer Granholm (Department of Energy), Assistant Secretary Michael Connor (Department of the Army), Chair Brenda Mallory (Council on Environmental Quality), and Under Secretary Dr. Richard Spinrad (Department of Commerce/NOAA) – recognizing that the Columbia Basin is a region where, *“For the Tribes, their past, present, and future is inextricably linked to the continued existence of salmon and the health of the rivers that support them, which is why the Tribes experience profound consequences from the dwindling salmon runs. As the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the National Congress of American Indians explained in resolutions passed last year, the Basin faces not only an environmental crisis, but an environmental justice crisis too”*; and concluding that, *“We cannot continue business as usual. Doing the right thing for salmon, Tribal Nations, and communities can bring us together. It is time for effective, creative solutions”*; and

WHEREAS, ATNI continues to stand united in supporting investment in salmon and river restoration in the Northwest; now

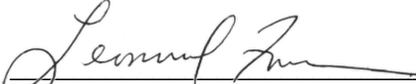
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports and thanks all the leaders who have heard the voices of the ATNI tribes, and especially thanks the Biden-Harris Administration, and Senator Patty Murray and Governor Jay Inslee, for their public acknowledgements, efforts, and current actions in moving the Northwest toward the bold actions that will be needed for salmon and river restoration in the Columbia Basin: to support salmon, steelhead, lamprey, and native fish, within their complete ecosystems – from the orca in the ocean and Puget Sound to the nutrients salmon supply to the furthest inland streams – and to support the Northwest Indian people who have lived with these species in mutual dependence since time immemorial; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI Tribes call for continued support and action from the Biden-Harris and subsequent Administrations and the Congress to ensure that the bold actions needed for salmon and river restoration in the Columbia Basin are taken; and

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 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, at Ferndale, Washington, May 16-19, 2022, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary