



## **2022 Annual Convention Tulalip, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #2022 - 44**

#### **"SUPPORT FOR THE CENTER FOR TRIBAL NATIONS IN PORTLAND, OREGON"**

##### **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**, there are nine Tribes in Oregon, with over 25,000 enrolled citizens, as well as Tribes in southwest Washington and Idaho with historic and cultural relationships to the area; and

**WHEREAS**, what is now known as the greater Portland region is home to approximately 89,477 American Indians and Alaska Natives, representing more than 380 tribal affiliations; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than twenty tribal and inter-tribal organizations operating in the greater Portland area, employing over 300 people with a combined \$200 million dollars in revenue that goes to local taxes, businesses, and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Tribal Nations (CTN) and Waterfront Education Park (WEP) projects seek to leverage the redevelopment of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry property (OMSI District) to model a new collaborative partnership between OMSI, tribal and inter-tribal organizations, Tribes and the City of Portland; and

**WHEREAS** the OMSI District Master Plan is to create a one-of-a-kind neighborhood that is an inclusive community destination with innovation, culture, and science learning at its heart; and

**WHEREAS**, the CTN was dreamt into existence for decades, and celebrates and catalyzes the power of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples' cultures and presence on the river, intending to respond to the history of displacement, disenfranchisement, and cultural erasure of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, the WEP is a place of healing to explore and experience the river and land through a tribal lens of culture and science, and will be the first in the City of Portland to restore American Indian and Alaska Native peoples' presence on the Willamette and create access to the River for all;

**WHEREAS**, the CTN and WEP are envisioned as an integrated package of buildings, infrastructure, and riverfront restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, the CTN and WEP seek to meaningfully restore Native Peoples' connection to the Willamette River and address shared challenges of sustainability, resilience, and inclusion; and

**WHEREAS**, the CTN and WEP are guided by values and principles that will support healthy and thriving Native communities with rich and diverse cultures and values, local economies that are grounded in social, environmental, and economic priorities, and sustainable Native communities that enhance natural, social, cultural and built environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the vision for the CTN and WEP will create new long-term jobs for urban Native community members, enhance the future prospects of residents of the district, leverage and expand OMSI's education mission - creating cultural relevance, model new approaches to sustainable and resilient buildings and infrastructure, and restore the health and accessibility of the urban Willamette River; and

**WHEREAS**, the Metro Regional Government awarded a 2040 Planning and Development Grant which supports regional and local planning to make the land ready for development, and redevelopment as well as providing funding for plans or projects that facilitate economic development and community stabilization in the Metro region to the CTN and WEP in the amount of \$750,000; now

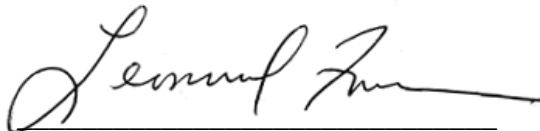
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, ATNI supports the CTN and WEP projects, including the visions and tribal and community-centered planning processes deployed to design and develop these projects for the benefit of Tribes, tribal and inter-tribal organizations, and American Indian and Alaska Native residents of the greater Portland region; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ATNI requests that local, state, and federal municipalities and agencies such as the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and State of Oregon who have a role in land use permitting and development provide necessary authorizations to the CTN and WEP projects and explore opportunities to provide funding in support of the project's goals; and

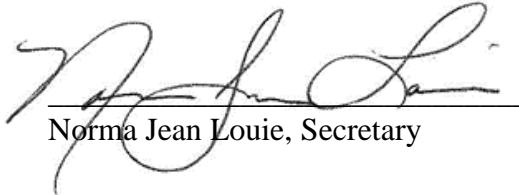
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, ATNI requests that local, state, and federal municipalities and agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations support efforts including land donation(s), land acquisition(s), and other real estate transactions to secure a site(s) suitable for the successful development, operation and stewardship of the CTN and WEP along the Willamette River.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2022 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Tulalip Resort and Casino, Tulalip, Washington, September 18-22, 2022 with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary