



2022 Winter Convention Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #2022 - 46

“Opposition to Federal or State Recognition of the Groups Claiming to be a Tribal Nations that Seek to Circumvent the Department of the Interior’s Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) Process”

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 (AI/AN) 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 and tribal sovereignty are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress is considering legislation that would federally recognize as sovereign tribal nations and circumvent the Department of the Interior’s Office of Federal

Acknowledgment (OFA) process that considers petitions from groups claiming to be tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, in response to a study published by the American Indian Policy Review Commission, and with the support of the National Congress of American Indians, the Department of the Interior established an agency now called the OFA to administer a fact-based process to determine whether a group claiming to be an historical tribe or tribes should be recognized by the United States as a sovereign tribal nation; and

WHEREAS, at the OFA, experts in history, genealogy, and anthropology determine whether a group meets the criteria to be federally recognized as a tribal nation; and

WHEREAS, without OFA review to discern fact from fiction, the Congress makes federal recognition decisions based on politics and emotion rather than merit; and

WHEREAS, the OFA process protects established Tribal Nations from arbitrary and political acknowledgment of groups claiming to be tribal nations; and

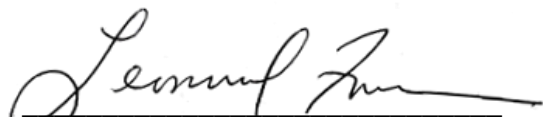
WHEREAS, some states have acknowledged groups claiming to be tribes as tribes, without processes that closely evaluate tribal and Native ancestry claims; and

WHEREAS, recognition of groups claiming to be tribal nations with uncertain status as historical tribes and without a close review of claims to Native ancestry imperils the government-to-government relationship between the United States and federally recognized tribal nations, including the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States; now

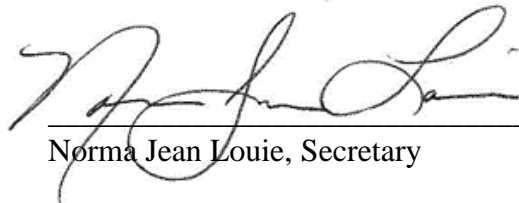
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby assert its opposition to federal legislation and state actions that would circumvent the Department of the Interior's Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA) process.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2022 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Tulalip Resort, Tulalip, Washington September 18 – 22, 2022 with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary