



2023 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #2023 – 03

“SUPPORT OF wəłəbʔaltx^w (INTELLECTUAL HOUSE) PHASE 2 PROJECT COMPLETION ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SEATTLE CAMPUS”

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, ATNI has historically supported increasing educational opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native higher education students; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has historically supported strengthening the Universities and Colleges in the Northwest, including the State of Washington, to improve their campus and program support to strengthen their support for American Indian and Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has determined that wələbʔaltx^w (Intellectual House) Phase 1 longhouse-style facility on the University of Washington campus in Seattle, WA, has served to benefit the American Indian and Alaska Natives, as well as other indigenous peoples throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington wələbʔaltx^w (Intellectual House) longhouse style facility project was negatively affected by the recession during fundraising and was forced to break the project into two phases; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington has been in conversation with the tribal communities in the region, through its Native American Advisory Board (NAAB) which was established in 1992, and the President’s Tribal Leadership Summit, established in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington, through the NAAB and Tribal Leadership Summit discussions, has determined there should be high priority given to: (a) access and recruitment of American Indian and Alaska Native students, (b) campus climate improvement in diversity for better retention, (c) promotion of American Indian and Alaska native students, (d) recruitment and promotion of American Indian and Alaska Native staff and faculty, and (e) Construction of a longhouse-style facility; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington has communicated over the years with local and regional tribal communities and consulted with sovereign tribal governments, as well as with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians organization; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington has learned, upon completion of construction of wələbʔaltx^w (Intellectual House) Phase 1 longhouse-style facility in 2015, that the “longhouse style facility” has assisted in access and equity goals and has contributed to the promotion of academic excellence on campus for American Indian and Alaska Native students, has drawn and retained American Indians and Alaska Native staff and faculty, has improved relations between tribal communities and the University of Washington, as well as developed and cultivated other inter-cultural and academic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington has learned, upon review of Phase 1 that Phase 2 is necessary to house growing student programming, space needs, unique community engagement, and academic excellence, with a total construction cost of approximately \$12,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington’s Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity has taken the lead, in cooperation with its Provost and President, in coordinating the effort to secure funding through private, individual, tribal government, tribal enterprise, local government, state government, and federal government contributions for the feasibility, development, construction, and operation of the “longhouse-style facility” Phase 1 and Phase 2 project; and

WHEREAS, the wələbʔaltx^w (Intellectual House) Phase 2 construction project is included in the 2023-25 Governor Inslee's proposed budget in the amount of \$9,000,000. The remaining \$3 million coming from University of Washington fundraising efforts; and

WHEREAS, ATNI believes that wələbʔaltx^w (Intellectual House) Phase 2 longhouse style facility will continue to contribute to the recruitment and retention objectives of the University, as well as creating culturally responsive learning environments; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI endorses and supports the University of Washington in its financial request to the Washington State Legislature for \$9 million for the 2023-25 biennium to fund construction costs for the wələbʔaltx^w (Intellectual House) Phase 2 project; and

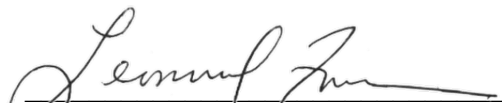
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby fully endorse and support project completion of wələbʔaltx^w (Intellectual House) Phase 2 longhouse-style facility on the University of Washington-Seattle Campus; and

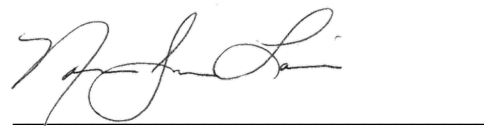
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does urge its Member Tribes, tribal organizations, tribal enterprises, and business associates to contribute to the completion of wələbʔaltx^w (Intellectual House) Phase 2 longhouse-style facility; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI will provide official letters of support for these efforts to appropriate funds from foundations and funding institutions as well as take other steps as appropriate and necessary to assist the University of Washington-Seattle Campus in reaching the goal of the project completion of this culturally, historically, and academically significant building, for the benefit of all University of Washington students, staff, and faculty.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on January 22-26, 2023 with a quorum approving.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary