



2023 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #2023 – 08

"SUPPORT FOR IHS PROVISION OF MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES ON THE WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION AND FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT"

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 Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWS) is a federally-recognized tribe located in Oregon, the legal successor in interest to the Indian signatories of the Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon, dated June 25, 1855, 12 Stat. 963, and is a member of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, an issue of pressing concern has arisen respect to a unilateral decision by the Indian Health Service (IHS) to cease providing certain death investigation services, including medical examiner services on the Warm Springs Reservation, an essential trust service that it has provided to CTWS for many decades; and

WHEREAS, the issue is urgent because without those critical trust services, CTWS has no one available to certify the cause and manner of deaths in a culturally appropriate manner, which jeopardizes the public health, safety and welfare of its members; and

WHEREAS, CTWS has requested that IHS immediately restore those essential direct trust services without success; and

WHEREAS, while CTWS prefers that IHS honor its trust responsibility to provide those trust services directly to the Tribe, it is willing to participate in a demonstration project to test the delivery of medical examiner services through a self-determination contract or self-governance compact; now

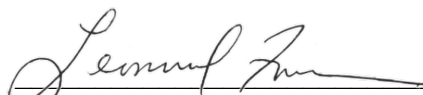
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI recognizes that IHS's historic provision of medical examiner services are an essential trust function required for the health, safety, and welfare of CTWS and its members living on the Warm Springs Reservation and requests that IHS promptly restore direct provision of these vital health services; and

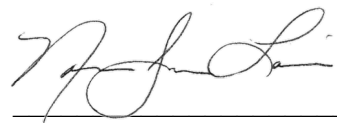
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ATNI also supports a demonstration project between CTWS and IHS to test the delivery of medical examiner services through a self-determination contract or self-governance compact as an alternative to IHS directly providing these trust services in the future; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, ATNI requests that IHS promptly engage in meaningful sovereign to sovereign consultation with CTWS focused on restoring IHS's provision of medical examiner services on the Warm Springs Reservation and on developing an application for the establishment of a demonstration project as described in this resolution.

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