



2023 Midyear Convention Worley, Idaho

RESOLUTION # 2023 – 20

“Climate Resilience Committee Mission Statement”

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 the rights secured under Indian Treaties 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 the representatives 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 and tribal sovereignty are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations throughout the United States are experiencing climate threats such as flooding, erosion, ocean acidification, increased wildfires, extended drought and changes in seasons that have put our homelands and our ways of life in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a direct challenge to the preservation of cultural traditions, natural resources, health, safety, welfare, education, and employment opportunities of both Tribal and non-Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs acknowledges that “Indigenous peoples are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change, due to their dependence upon, and close relationship, with the environment and its resources. Climate change exacerbates the difficulties already faced by indigenous communities including political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, discrimination and unemployment;” and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change announced in March 2023 that climate resilient actions need to be based in “diverse values, worldviews, and knowledges, including scientific knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge ... [to allow for] ...locally appropriate, socially acceptable resolutions;” and

WHEREAS, the Status of Tribes and Climate Change Report published in 2021 recommends that Tribal sovereignty and self-determination be respected and upheld, and that holistic responses to climate change be integrated which align with diverse Tribal values; and

WHEREAS, it is the legislative prerogative of state, local, and regional governments to maintain the trust responsibility consisting of the highest moral obligations that the United States must meet to ensure the protection of tribal and individual Indian lands, assets, resources, and treaty and similarly recognized rights; and

WHEREAS, ATNI Resolution #2022-38 supports equitable climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience efforts for the benefit of all tribes in ATNI and Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has the responsibility to advocate on behalf of ATNI’s Member Tribes; and

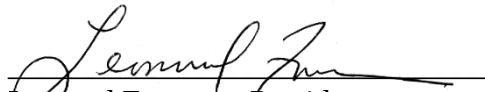
WHEREAS, the advocacy on behalf of those tribes is done through the creation and development of resolutions specific to committee subject matter; now

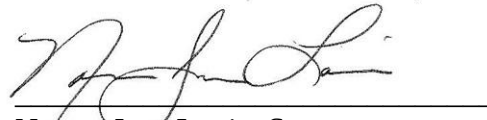
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI and their represented member tribes create and empower the Climate Resilience Committee to:

- 1) Advocate for the development and implementation of legislative actions of local, state, and/or federal governments to further long-term or continuous climate resilience funding opportunities and preventative measures for tribes, tribal entities, and partner organizations; and
- 2) To make available directly AND indirectly, dependent upon funding and availability, pertinent and timely information, and resources as identified by the Climate Resilience Committee prior to ATNI Annual Conferences; and
- 3) Provide an environment or forum for tribes to come together to be stronger in our efforts in acquiring funds.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, at Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort – Hotel, Worley, Idaho on May 8 - 11, 2023, with a quorum approving.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary