



## **2023 Midyear Convention Worley, ID**

### **RESOLUTION #2023 - 23**

### **“Supports The Secure And Fair Enforcement (Safe) Banking Act Of 2023 (S. 1323)”**

#### **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 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 the 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 ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon’s Senator Jeff Merkley, Montana’s Senator Steve Daines, among other co-sponsors introduced the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2023 (S. 1323), to ensure that legal cannabis businesses have access to critical banking and financial services; and

**WHEREAS**, the SAFE Banking Act of 2023 prevents federal banking regulators from penalizing or discouraging a bank from providing financial services, terminating or limiting a bank’s federal deposit insurance, incentivizing a bank to halt or downgrade any kind of banking service, or taking any action on a loan to these legal cannabis and cannabis-related businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, many cannabis businesses are denied access to traditional and secure banking systems because financial institutions, such as banks, fear prosecution under federal law or adverse regulator action given the ongoing federal restrictions on cannabis, and because of the lack of access to those financial services, cannabis businesses are forced to operate their businesses solely using cash, which increases the potential of criminal activity against these businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, 22 states have legalized recreational commercial cannabis, which impacted nearly 500 federally recognized tribes who witnessed an increase in the use and possession of cannabis in public spaces, but without additional tax revenue—unlike state governments—to fund governmental programs to mitigate the effects of cannabis; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the tribes have since decided to participate in the cannabis industry to generate revenue to support essential governmental services, to diversify their economy, to provide new investment opportunities, and to provide employment; and

**WHEREAS**, like state-licensed cannabis enterprises, tribally-owned cannabis enterprises face risk associated with operating a cash-only business, including record keeping issues, increased overhead costs, limited access to financial services and business tools, and safety. In 2022, cannabis retail stores in Washington alone reported at least 100 armed robberies. These armed robberies are becoming increasingly violent, with three fatalities reported in March 2022 in the Puget sound area; and

**WHEREAS**, the SAFE Banking Act of 2023, if signed into law, would provide tribally-owned cannabis enterprises security and access to banks, credit unions, and other critical financial products. By having access to necessary financial services, tribally-owned cannabis enterprises will be able to operate without the constant fear of theft and violence; and

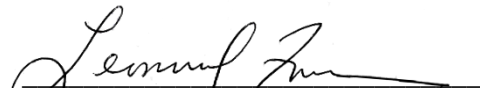
**WHEREAS**, the SAFE Banking Act of 2023, if signed into law, would bolster tribal sovereignty by ensuring that tribes, as both industry participants and cannabis regulators, can take all appropriate measures to protect their citizens, lands, and businesses; now


**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby endorse and support the SAFE Banking Act of 2023 (S. 1323) to provide tribally-owned cannabis enterprises access to financial services, which will increase the public safety in Indian Country and allow tribally-owned cannabis enterprises to stimulate the tribal governments’ economies, and other such purposes; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges its member tribal governments and Alaska Native villages to contact and write letters of support to U.S. Congress to vote in favor of passage of the SAFE Banking Act of 2023 in the 118th Congress.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2023 Midyear Convention held at the Coeur d’Alene Casino Resort - Hotel in Worley, Idaho on May 8-11, 2023, with a quorum present.

  
Leonard Forsman, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary