



2023 Midyear Convention Worley, Idaho

Resolution #2023 - 29

On Clarifying The National Congress of American Indian Definition Of Tribal Member

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, NCAI Constitution and By-Laws definitions of “Tribal Membership” permit state recognized groups to be full tribal members of NCAI, with voting power both as members and on the NCAI Executive Council; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports changes to the NCAI Constitution and By-Laws definitions of the Tribal Membership that would define Tribal Membership as “All Tribal Nations with treaty and/or trust relations with the United States as demonstrated by inclusion on the list annually published by the Department of the Interior in compliance with the Federally Recognized Tribes List Act”; and

WHEREAS, ATNI supports language that would amend the NCAI definition of “Organization Associate Membership” as “Organizations *and groups recognized by states as tribes*” as non-voting members of NCAI; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby supports amendments to the NCAI Constitution and By-Laws to clarify the Tribal Membership of NCAI; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports replacing the definitions of Tribal Membership in Article II, Section B of the NCAI Constitution and Article III, Section B of the By-Laws with language such as:

“All Tribal Nations with treaty and/or trust relations with the United States as demonstrated by inclusion on the lists annually published by the Department of the Interior in compliance with the Federally Recognized Tribes List Act;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports amending the definition of Organization Associate Membership in Article II, Section B of the NCAI Constitution and Article III, Section B of the Bylaws with language such as:

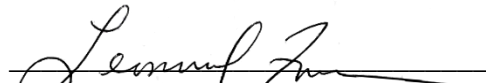
“Organizations and groups recognized by States as tribes may be admitted to non-voting associate membership upon the payment of annual dues as fixed by the By-Laws. No individual or organization with known subversive activities or affiliation shall be admitted to membership, nor shall their contributions be accepted;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ATNI leadership and staff are authorized and directed to take any other appropriate action to advance the protection of tribal identity to address the problems and concerns addressed in this Resolution; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

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


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary