



2023 Midyear Convention Worley, Idaho

RESOLUTION #2023 – 39

“Immediate Action To Develop A Comprehensive And Transparent Procedure for Offshore Wind Project Permitting To Adequately Protect Tribal Environmental And Sovereign Interests.”

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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), we urge you to immediately halt all scoping and permitting for offshore wind projects until a comprehensive and transparent procedure is developed and implemented to protect tribal environmental and sovereign interests; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes understand the importance of renewable energy and recognize the potential benefits of offshore wind projects. However, we cannot overlook the potential negative impacts to our tribal communities, cultures, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, tribal governments have a unique relationship with the federal government and have a responsibility to protect our lands, waters, and cultural resources for future generations. As sovereign nations, we must be consulted and have a seat at the table throughout the entire planning and decision-making process for offshore wind projects; and

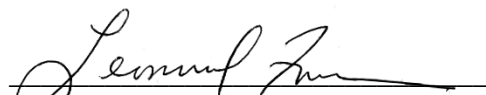
WHEREAS, currently, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) have not provided adequate opportunities for tribal consultation or addressed our concerns regarding the potential impacts of offshore wind projects. This lack of consultation and transparency violates our inherent sovereign rights and responsibilities; now


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we ask that DOI and BOEM take immediate action to develop a comprehensive and transparent procedure that adequately protects tribal environmental and sovereign interests. This procedure must include meaningful and timely consultation with tribal governments, a comprehensive environmental and cultural impact assessment, and a commitment to respect and protect tribal sovereignty and self-determination; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, until this procedure is developed and implemented, we request that all scoping and permitting for offshore wind projects be halted. We cannot afford to sacrifice our cultural and natural resources for the sake of renewable energy without ensuring that our sovereign interests are protected.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Midyear Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, 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