



**2023 Annual Convention
Grand Mound, Washington**

RESOLUTION #23 - 55

**“SUPPORT FOR THE WASHINGTON STATE
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BOARD’S
RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM”**

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 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 the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI Telecommunications Committee has been working diligently to address the lack of access to infrastructure that provides high speed internet and cell phone coverage in rural native communities; and

WHEREAS, ATNI member Tribes have made significant progress to inform, educate and advocate on broadband needs to the United States Congress as well as State Legislatures, the impact on Tribal economic development from the lack of broadband access; and

WHEREAS, the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) in Washington State is authorized to make economic development loans and grants, which includes funding for rural broadband infrastructure to local governments and to federally recognized Indian tribe; and

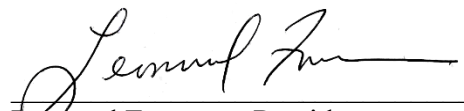
WHEREAS, the Board is working with stakeholders and Legislative members to submit a bill to codify the Board’s Rural Broadband program. The codification of this program into RCW 43.160 will make this a core function of CERB. This will give stability and confidence to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes, as they are planning for future broadband projects, that there is a permanent funding mechanism for them to access; and

WHEREAS, this will empower CERB to continue making grants and loans to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes to build public infrastructure, which includes high-speed, open-access broadband service to rural and unserved/underserved communities for the purpose of community and economic development. Broadband is more important than ever the residents in Washington. CERB has a proven track record and is a trusted partner for local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI fully supports the codification of the Rural Broadband program in RCW 43.160 for the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board to support future community and economic development infrastructure investments.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington on September 18 – 21, 2023, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary