



2024 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #24 – 13

“SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LEGISLATIVE BILLS IN THE STATE OF ALASKA”

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 Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood are the oldest and most effective civil rights organizations in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska is the largest Tribe in the State of Alaska, representing 35,000 citizens in 22 Villages in Southeast Alaska, Anchorage, Washington, and California; and

WHEREAS, In January of 2024, the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center shared the National Crime Information Center 2020 Report, which highlights 9,575 missing persons, 45% male and 55% female, in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and reported 751 cases of missing Alaska Native/American Indians with 69% male and 31% female; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives are 15% of the state's population of 730,000, and 47% of sexual assault victims are Alaska Native women; and

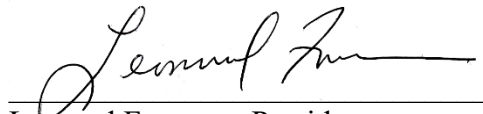
WHEREAS, there are 3 legislative bills before the Alaska State Legislature this session, Senate Bill 151 and House Bills 234 and 235, all concerning MMIPW, and these bills will codify and establish paid positions in the Department of Public Safety that will begin to address this crisis; now

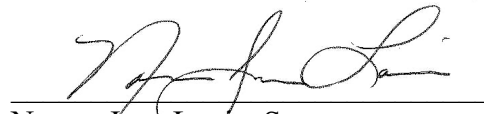
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the State of Alaska to adopt these policies and laws as identified in the three bills to address the crisis of MMIPW; and

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 2024 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Hyatt Regency, Portland, OR, January 28 – February 31, 2024, with a quorum present.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Lome, Secretary