



**2024 Winter Convention
Portland, Oregon**

RESOLUTION #24 – 14

**“URGE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO FULLY FUND TWO BUDGET
PROVISOS RECOMMENDED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE MISSING
AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND PEOPLE’S TASK
FORCE”**

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, Indigenous women and people go missing and are murdered at rates much higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP) Task Force has been meeting regularly since December 2021; and

WHEREAS, the MMIWP Task Force recommended two budget provisos for the current biennium; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Tribes, the first proviso would establish a work group to develop best practices for Indigenous demographic data collection by law enforcement, coroners and medical examiners; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Tribes, the second proviso would provide financial assistance to local jurisdictions to conduct Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) testing for unidentified remains, and for those remains for which DNA testing failed to yield a match, including forensic genetic genealogy analysis to be conducted; and

WHEREAS, when DNA or forensic genetic genealogy is used, the results will only be used for identification, investigative, and prosecutorial purposes, unless the tribe or the family notes otherwise; and

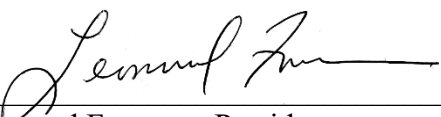
WHEREAS, when DNA or forensic genetic genealogy is used, the results will not be used for academic or financial gain; and

WHEREAS, to address the crisis of MMIWP in Washington and in partnership at the regional and national level requires a sustained effort; now

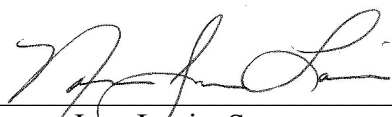
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the State of Washington to fully fund two budget provisos recommended by the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People’s Task Force through the current biennium.

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 Louie, Secretary