



2024 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #24 – 01

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESTERN OREGON TERMINATION ACT

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 tribal government cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, 2024 marks the seventy-year anniversary of the Western Oregon Termination Act of 1954 (“Termination Act”), which terminated federal recognition of no less than 59 Oregon tribes and bands and severed their trust relationship with the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Termination Act proved to be an unmitigated disaster, resulting in dispossession, deprivation, cultural loss, the fracturing of families, poverty, health problems, and the movement of many Native American peoples away from their communities; and

WHEREAS, the termination of western Oregon tribes substantially contributed to intergenerational economic, social, cultural, and environmental problems that tribal members are diligently working to this day to address; and

WHEREAS, members of tribes victimized by the Termination Act subsequently worked to correct this historic wrong, and their efforts resulted in the Congressional restoration of several western Oregon tribes; and

WHEREAS, ATNI honors the resilience and courage of tribal members who advocated for the successful recognition of their terminated tribes; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is devoted to the preservation and enhancement of its member tribes' sovereignty; now

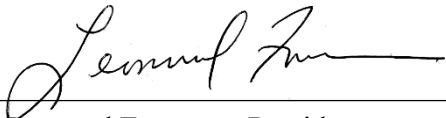
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI condemns the Western Oregon Termination Act of 1954; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI rejects any involuntary efforts to amend or repeal tribal restoration acts; and

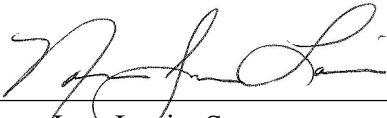
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI respectfully requests that the National Congress of American Indians, and all other regional Native American associations and organizations join with ATNI in supporting this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Hyatt Regency Portland Convention Center in Portland, Oregon on January 27-February 1, 2024, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary