



2024 Midyear Convention

RESOLUTION #2024 – 25

“URGING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO EXTEND THE INDIAN TRUST ASSET REFORM ACT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT”

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, beginning in 2011, the ATNI Trust Reform Committee drafted a bill titled the *Indian Trust Asset Reform Act* (ITARA) that would establish a tribal trust asset demonstration project, establish an Under Secretary for Indian Affairs, and restructure the Office of the Special Trustee (OST); and

WHEREAS, the ITARA had bipartisan support in Congress and widespread support in Indian country and on June 22, 2016, President Obama signed the legislation into law as Public Law 114-178; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the ITARA establishes the Indian Trust Asset Demonstration Project (“Demonstration Project”), which allows Indian tribes to enter into agreements with the Secretary of the Interior to direct the management of their trust resources; and

WHEREAS, multiple Indian tribes have entered into agreements with the Secretary under the Demonstration Project with great success; and


WHEREAS, the ITARA provides that the Demonstration Project shall remain in effect for a period of 10 years after the date of enactment of the Act but may be extended “at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior”; and

WHEREAS, the Demonstration Project has been and is a valuable tool for Indian tribes to have more influence on how their trust resources should be managed and the Demonstration Project should be extended; now

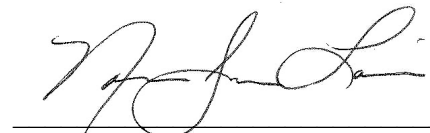
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports and respectfully calls on the Secretary of the Interior to exercise her discretion to extend the Demonstration Project indefinitely or, alternatively, for an additional 20 years.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Midyear Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians at Seven Feathers Casino, Canyonville, Oregon, on May 19 – May 23, 2024, with a quorum approving.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary