



2024 Midyear Convention Canyonville, Oregon

RESOLUTION #24 –27

“SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRIBAL RESILIENCY PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY”

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 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the agency responsible for all grant funding appropriated by Congress to support the National Preparedness Goal for all communities to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies to create a secure and resilient nation; and

WHEREAS, Congress has provided consistent funding to state and local governments for over 50 years to develop and sustain core homeland security and emergency services

capabilities and capacities; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, Congress has allocated over \$55 billion in homeland security grant funds to state and local governments, which averages \$3.2 billion per year, while Tribal Nations have only been allocated just over \$95 million (\$5.5 million per year average) in federal homeland security funding during the same period; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of the federal government’s ongoing investments, state and local governments were prepared and had the capacity to navigate the complex Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) processes and policies to access billions in COVID-19 emergency relief funds; and

WHEREAS, unlike other units of government, Tribal Nations have been continuously left behind in securing Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding to meet core homeland security and emergency services capabilities and capacities. As a result, the most logical approach toward funding a Tribal resiliency program will be to request funding through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations and Tribal emergency management organizations have limited access to obtain emergency management and response funding directly from DHS, and current funding mechanisms require Tribal Nations and their emergency management organizations to seek funds through state governments; and

WHEREAS, the outbreak and continued persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indian Country exemplified the failure of the federal government to uphold its trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations by failing to invest in all Tribal emergency services capabilities and capacity; and

WHEREAS, this failure to uphold trust and treaty obligations prevented over 80 percent of Tribal Nations from accessing billions in critical lifesaving, emergency relief funds throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the direct outcome of this historic underfunding of Tribal emergency services programs left Tribal Leaders and government staff overworked, understaffed, and unable or challenged to navigate the complex FEMA process during a pandemic that threatened the public safety and operations of our Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, in order to appropriately prepare Tribal Nations for future emergency and disaster response scenarios Congress must uphold its trust and treaty obligations and fully fund DHS emergency and disaster response programs for Tribal Nations to meet the standards required by the Homeland Security Act (P.L. 107-296) and the Robert T. Stafford Act (P.L. 100-707) as well as those standards developed by FEMA, the National Fire Administration, the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, the independent non-profit Joint Commission, and other public safety organizations; and

WHEREAS, that Tribal emergency managers estimate that a minimum of 3 full-time equivalent positions would be required for each Tribal Nation to meet these standards and requirements and could be covered by receiving \$360,000 annually in addition to federal funding for Tribal Nations currently available; and

WHEREAS, that this investment by the federal government would help to fulfill its trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations; and


WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly urges Congress to appropriate at a minimum \$206.64 million to establish a Tribal Resiliency Continuity Program that is non-competitive, has no federal cost share, and is streamlined at the Department of Homeland Security to empower all Tribal Nations to build core homeland security and emergency services capacities and capabilities; and

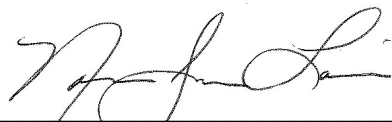
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

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



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary