



**2024 Annual Convention
Ridgefield, Washington**

RESOLUTION #2024 – 28

**“SUPPORT INTERNAL COORDINATION TO SHARE AND PLAN FOR
FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS”**

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 natural, 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, ATNI Tribes have been taught by our ancestors that our natural resources are linked to our people, culture, history, health, education and our survival, Tribal leaders are responsible for taking care of the land for our children’s children, and for generations Tribes took care of the land, and our land took care of tribal people; and

WHEREAS, now our mother earth is changing, she needs tribal and non-tribal people to do conservation, preservation and restoration for all of us to live off our land because our natural resources have no boundaries; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has coordinated and held “Climate Change Summits” and has shared information because Tribal leaders have been taught that for our children’s children to survive, we need to take care of land so it can take care of us; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI Tribes in the Pacific Northwest, United States and other nations are seeing climate change impacts and some of the ATNI Tribes have made climate change a priority to coordinate with local, state and federal entities to seek a collaborative solution for their tribal members/community because, none of the ATNI Tribes, states, Federal Departments and local governments can do this alone; and

WHEREAS, internal coordination and communication is going to be critical in developing a strategic plan but a request to the state and Federal agencies to do the same is also going to be critical because, it is recognized that responsible leadership is needed not only to from the ATNI Tribes, but state, Federal and local governments that is accountable to our people our environment, our health, our education, our economy, our children’s children for the next seven generations and beyond; and


WHEREAS, some of the states, federal and local governments are interested in working with the ATNI Tribes at the policy-level on many issues and climate change is one of them, which is providing an opportunity for partnership, collaboration and funding to the Pacific Northwest Tribes who should be taking the lead in developing and moving forward a regional/national strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, our Tribal youth need to be involved because they can assist in gaining support for the ATNI Tribes Pacific Northwest Climate Strategic Plan at the regional and national levels because they are our future leaders who will continue to work and plan for their children’s children; now


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI Climate Resilience Committee, ATNI Tribes, and Tribal Commissions start developing an ATNI Climate Resilience Strategic Plan that includes telling our story on why we are working to take care of the lands’ natural resources, explore ways of getting common data for good management decisions, outreach to Federal, state, local entities, universities/colleges and to provide an update at the 2025 Annual Convention.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, held at ilani Casino Resort, Ridgefield, Washington on September 29 – October 3, 2024 with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary