



**2024 Annual Convention
Ridgefield, Washington**

RESOLUTION #2024 – 35

**“CALLING FOR TRIBAL LEADERSHIP AND OVERSIGHT IN
ELECTRIC GRID GOVERNANCE AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
PLANNING”**

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, the destructive impacts of climate change necessitate a shift towards an electric grid powered by clean energy; and

WHEREAS, the destructive ecological impacts of hydroelectric power in the Northwest have severely harmed the cultural resources and well-being of Northwestern Tribes, Tribal

people, and natural ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the formation of a Western energy market and eventual Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) could enable the efficient use of solar and other renewable energy technology to replace ecologically destructive power sources; and

WHEREAS, the formation of a Western Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) will also have implications critical to Tribal interests, including the siting of energy projects and associated impacts on natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the movement toward Western RTO formulation is taking place alongside both national and regional planning and investment in new electric transmission infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, transmission buildout, like RTO formulation will have implications critical to Tribal interests; now

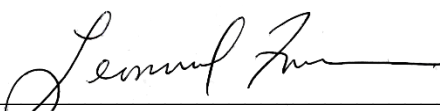
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on states, regulators, utilities, electricity wholesalers, and all relevant decision makers and advocates to ensure that both Tribal electric utilities, Tribal energy development organizations, and Tribal elected leaders have oversight and leadership roles in formulation discussions and eventual governance of a Western Regional Transmission Organization (RTO); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls for free, prior, and informed consent of transmission planning processes at every level to ensure that Tribal electric utilities, Tribal energy development organizations, and Tribal governments have decision-making authority, oversight, and leadership roles in planning of new transmission buildout; and

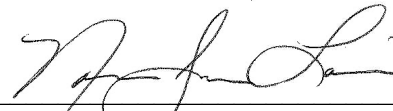
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to establish and support a national Tribal working group to advocate for Tribal rights, energy priorities and interests regarding the evolving issues of RTO formation and governance and the buildout of new transmission infrastructure to ensure key Tribal rights, interests, and priorities are central to decision making around transmission development and RTO formulation.

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