



**2024 Annual Convention
Ridgefield, Washington**

RESOLUTION #2024 – 45

**“SUPPORTING AND JOINING THE WHITE HOUSE AMERICA THE
BEAUTIFUL FRESHWATER CHALLENGE: A PARTNERSHIP TO
CONSERVE AND RESTORE RIVERS, LAKES, STREAMS, AND
WETLANDS”**

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, water is held sacred by indigenous peoples around the world and by ATNI members as a source of life that is central to our very existence; and

WHEREAS, lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries, and wetlands provide habitat, offer protection, and nourish the people, the plants, and the animals that live alongside us and these freshwater resources; and

WHEREAS, the health and survival of our Tribes are interwoven with that of salmon and other native fish, and the rivers, wetlands, and estuaries that sustain these creatures; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of ATNI are united by salmon, steelhead, lamprey, and other native fish; by the Northwest rivers that salmon, steelhead, lamprey, and native fish depend upon; and by the interconnectedness of salmon with their ecosystems – from the orca in the ocean and Puget Sound to the nutrients that salmon supply to the furthest inland streams and forests; and

WHEREAS, the fate of our Tribes and Tribes across North America and the fate of Northwest salmon and freshwater resources are intertwined; and

WHEREAS, our freshwater resources and the animals and other biodiversity that they support are disappearing at a rate faster than that of land or ocean biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, as climate warming advances, the health of these resources are more necessary to help protect our communities from flooding, catastrophic wildfire, drought, and water pollution; and

WHEREAS, protecting clean, safe access to freshwater and estuary resources are vital for the health, wellbeing, and cultural traditions of ATNI members; now

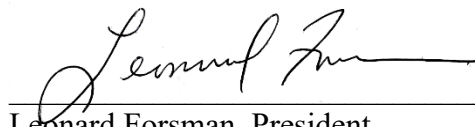
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the establishment of the national goals for wetland, river, and stream reconnection, restoration, and conservation set out through the White House America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby joins the White House America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge as a member and stands alongside the other signatories in protecting the shared freshwater resources of the Northwest; and

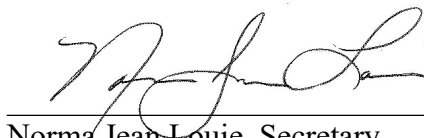
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Congress of American Indians for support.

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