



2024 Annual Convention Ridgefield, Washington

RESOLUTION #2024 – 49

“ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR STRONGER ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TREASURY TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TRIBAL LEADERS, AND DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY”

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, federal Tribal Advisory Committees, distinct from the general public, serve in a specialized advisory capacity to provide informed feedback and guidance on Indian affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC) was established under the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2014 (26 USC § 139E) with the explicit purpose of advising the Secretary of the Treasury on matters significant to the taxation of Indians, the training of IRS field agents, and the provision of technical assistance to Native American financial officers; and

WHEREAS, while the TTAC serves as a significant advisory body, stronger engagement and collaboration between the TTAC, the Department of Treasury, and Tribal leaders is necessary to ensure that Tribal interests are fully considered in the development and implementation of Treasury policies and regulations that impact Tribal nations and Native people; and

WHEREAS, TTAC meetings have lacked meaningful participation from Tribal leaders, often limiting their input to brief public comment periods following extensive federal presentations; and

WHEREAS, this dismissive approach not only undermines the spirit of partnership that TTAC was created to embody but also reduces the Tribal government role to that of passive observers rather than active participants in discussions that directly impact their nations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon the Department of Treasury and the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC) to improve its engagement and communication with Tribal leaders, and to honor the spirit of partnership and collaboration that is central to its mission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon TTAC to immediately reform its meeting structure to ensure that Tribal leaders are given a meaningful platform for dialogue and partnership; and

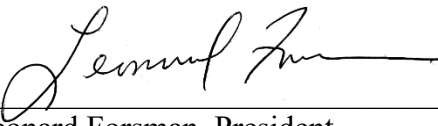
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the Department of Treasury to proactively engage with and integrate the perspectives of TTAC in the development and implementation of policies and regulations, acknowledging that effective advisory work demands active listening, mutual respect, and inclusion at every stage of the process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, the members of the TTAC, and relevant federal agencies, emphasizing the urgent need for TTAC to restore trust and uphold its obligations to Tribal nations through genuine and sustained engagement; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to regional and national forums.

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