



ATNI Winter 2025 Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 01

“IN PROTECTION OF A COWLITZ TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY”

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 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 the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments 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 Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) propose to replace the I-5 Northbound bridge across the East Fork Lewis River; and

WHEREAS, WSDOT and FHWA have conducted cultural resources inventory and testing at a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and archaeological site significant to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe (CIT); and

WHEREAS, while in the process, the WSDOT and FHWA have significantly impacted this TCP and site without meaningful consultation with the CIT; and

WHEREAS, the CIT seeks to preserve and protect this sacred TCP and site to the fullest extent of the law, and in respect to our sovereign duty to our creator; now

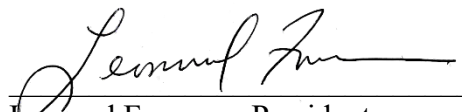
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports and stands with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's (CIT's) efforts to protect this sacred Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and site from future development by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Federal Highways Administration (FHWA); and

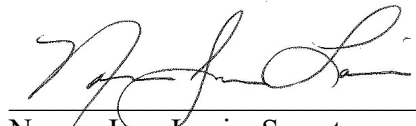
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI also calls on the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Washington State Secretary of Transportation, and FHWA to meaningfully consult with the CIT regarding the protection of said sacred TCP and site; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI review, consider, and concur with this resolution on an emergency basis at the ATNI 2025 Winter Convention, for the purpose of standing together in support of indigenous inherent sovereignty and preservation and protection of a CIT TCP.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Winter Convention held at the Hilton Portland Downtown in Portland, Oregon on January 26-30, 2025, with a quorum present.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary