



**ATNI Midyear 2025 Convention
Airway Heights, Washington**

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 15

“REQUESTING THAT AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND’S ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BE SET ASIDE FOR TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS AND REVIEWED ANNUALLY TO ASSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING”

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 work of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) is about addressing epidemics in Indian Country that are the symptoms of historical trauma – of people systematically cut off from their families, languages, practices, and lands; and

WHEREAS, reconnecting Native peoples to their cultural heritage, traditions, and places has the power to help heal deep generational wounds; and

WHEREAS, THPOs and the work they do is an exercise of Tribal sovereignty, appointed by federally recognized Tribal governments that have an agreement in place with the Department of the Interior to assume the federal compliance role of the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO), per the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); and

WHEREAS, as of 2025, 228 Tribal Nations have established National Park Service recognized THPOs, who have the legal obligation to engage in consultation federally permitted or funded projects; and

WHEREAS, five to 10 Tribal Nations establish THPOs each year; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) was established to support the work THPOs do in accordance with the NHPA; and

WHEREAS, the portion of HPF money directed to THPOs has failed to keep pace with either the increase in the number of THPOs or the increase in the number of federal projects on which THPOs consult; and

WHEREAS, THPOs received 11 percent of the total HPF funding in Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025; and

WHEREAS, the failure to adequately fund THPOs is an abrogation of the Federal government's trust responsibility to Tribal Nations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI requests the United States enact a reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) that mandates a minimum of 20 percent of HPF annual appropriations be set aside for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers apportionments; and

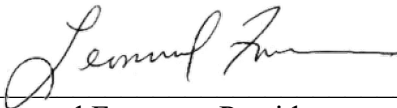
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the United States enact an HPF reauthorization that mandates the Department of Interior (DOI) perform an annual review to determine if THPO funding is keeping pace with the number of THPOs, and, if not, adjust THPO funding accordingly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) for consideration; and

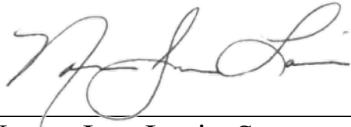
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Midyear Convention held at the Northern Quest Resort and Casino in Airway Heights Washington on May 11-15, 2025, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary