



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

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 16

**“SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS (CDFI) FUND”**

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, in 1994, the United States Congress authorized the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, by way of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act; and

WHEREAS, with the creation of the CDFI Fund, an agency within the U.S. Department of Treasury, the 1994 legislation contained a provision mandating a study examining lending and investment practices in Native communities; and

WHEREAS, the resulting “Native American Lending Study”, completed in November of 2001, identified 17 major barriers to investment in Native communities, including complex land tenure, inability to collateralize trust assets, and infrastructure availability; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Lending Study further recommended the development of “Tribal or Inter-Tribal CDFIs, community banks, and other lending and investment institutions” to address these barriers and increase the flow of capital in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the study’s release resulted in the CDFI Fund’s establishment of its Native Initiatives and Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program, which awards Financial Assistance and Technical Assistance awards to Native CDFIs; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians– Economic Development Corporation (ATNI-EDC) formed the subsidiary ATNI Financial Services in 2007 that is today a Treasury-certified CDFI; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI-EDC formed the Northwest Native Lending Network (NNLN) at the 2019 ATNI-EDC Economic Summit that was later formally recognized by the ATNI General Membership by way of ATNI Resolution #19-18 on May 23rd, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the President’s recently released FY 2026 Discretionary Budget Request to Congress calls for substantial funding reductions to the CDFI Fund along with other programs vital to Indian communities; and

WHEREAS, an earlier Executive Order targeted the CDFI Fund for elimination, which prompted rapid response from CDFI organizations, Congressional representatives with CDFIs in their districts, and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to advocate for the continuation of the CDFI Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Native CDFI Network has developed the attached letter signed by most of the Native CDFIs and vital partner organizations advocating for the continued funding support of the CDFI Fund and specifically its NACA Program; now

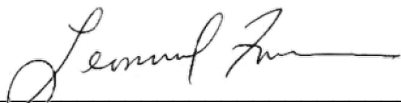
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly urges the Administration to support the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund along with the Native American CDFI Financial Assistance Program in the Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations process commensurate with their demonstrated funding needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is forwarded to The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI); and

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