



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

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 28

**“DEREGULATION IN FOCUS: SAFEGUARDING TRIBAL
SOVEREIGNTY AND PROTECTING ESSENTIAL TRIBAL PROGRAMS”**

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, Executive Order 14192 (EO 14192) Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation seeks to eliminate regulations to promote economic growth and efficiency, impacting regulations published after January 20, 2025, or any that go into effect 60 days from this date, and expands the definition of “regulation” to include memoranda, guidance documents,

policy statements, and interagency agreements – while requiring agencies to repeal at least 10 existing regulations for every new one proposed; and

WHEREAS, regulations are important to tribes because they can help ensure access to federal funding and services, support economic development, promote community health and safety, and protect tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, tribes are actively seeking to improve the federal regulatory landscape to streamline access to and administration of federal grants and creating more direct and efficient methods for funding tribal governments that honor tribal sovereignty and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, EO 14192 will have profound impacts for programs and policies that serve tribal communities—for example, last year, Congress reauthorized a major federal child welfare law, the Supporting America’s Children and Families Act (P.L. 118-258), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will need to issue new regulations to provide states and tribes with guidance on how to implement the law; and

WHEREAS, the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) final rule, published in December 2024, is an important example of regulations that embody the federal trust responsibility to protect Native children and families and support more informed data collection for Native children in state foster care systems; and

WHEREAS, plans for deregulation also interconnect with the recent HHS rescission of the Richardson Waiver, a process for soliciting public comments before issuing regulations related to public benefits, grants, and contracts; and

WHEREAS, while this rescission allows HHS greater flexibility to implement regulations more swiftly in an effort to enhance efficiency, it also raises concerns regarding federal trust responsibilities and the need to consult with tribal nations before policy decisions are made; now

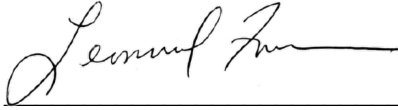
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the Administration’s goals to streamline federal programs to reduce administrative burdens and improve flexibility in programs, and expects that HHS to conduct tribal consultation before making policy decisions contained in the development of proposed regulations or the repeal of existing regulations that could affect tribal programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI expects that HHS, in consultation, consistent with the federal/ tribal government to government policy with tribal nations, assess shared goals and risks that deregulation efforts and the rescission of the Richardson Waiver have on tribal input and participation in the regulatory process, and whether this approach aligns with and fulfills HHS’s federal trust responsibilities to tribal nations; 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