



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

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 29

**“PROTECTING TRIBAL PROGRAMS THROUGH CONSULTATION ON
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI) REORGANIZATION”**

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 Department of Interior (DOI) is undergoing reorganization to streamline operations and optimize the federal workforce under Executive Order 14210; and

WHEREAS, the DOI has formally requested consultation with tribes to inform its work designing and implementing workforce optimization priorities; and

WHEREAS, consultation prior to reorganization is essential because the DOI administers several social services programs for tribal nations, including programs under the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) that support Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) grants and oversight, including Title II grants for tribal and off-reservation Indian child and family service programs, and funding for the Tiwahe Initiative that supports seven social service program areas (ICWA, social services, housing, job placement and training, pathways to wellness, tribal courts, and wellness courts); and

WHEREAS, the BIA also offers a range of other human service programs related to financial assistance, social services, and support for various needs, such as the Housing Improvement Program that provides funding for housing repairs and related housing services that prioritize citizens with the most significant needs (elders, low-income families, disabled tribal members), to ultimately enhance quality of life; and

WHEREAS, workforce reductions at the DOI could mean not only fewer staff available to provide technical assistance to tribes trying to access funding and implement programs at both the regional and national level, but also fewer staff with knowledge of the federal trust relationship and the vital role social service programs under the BIA have on advancing tribal family and community safety, and economic mobility; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI expects that DOI continue to lead by example in its reorganization efforts to conduct government to government tribal consultation before making decisions that could affect tribal programs that provide essential services to Native children, families, and tribal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI expects that DOI will examine the impacts of previous staff reductions and immediately develop a plan to reinstate any terminated tribal program staff in consultation with tribes; 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