



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

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 30

**“CALL FOR NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS (NCAI)
TO ADVOCATE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO SIGN
AND RATIFY THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION (WIPO) TREATY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,
GENETIC RESOURCES AND ASSOCIATED TRADITIONAL
KNOWLEDGE”**

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 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations with 193 member states, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States participated in the WIPO Diplomatic Conference to Conclude the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Associated Traditional Knowledge in May of 2024; and

WHEREAS, the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge was adopted on May 24, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has conducted advocacy for this WIPO Treaty through NCAI Resolutions #PHX-16-054 and #SAC-22-038; and

WHEREAS, the United States must sign and ratify the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Associated Traditional Knowledge to facilitate the national implementation of protections for Tribes' genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as provided in the treaty; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to advocate for the signature of the United States Government to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge to the United States Department of Commerce, the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and the United States Department of State; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI urges NCAI, following the United States Government's signature to the WIPO Treaty, to advocate to the United States Senate to ratify the signature.

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