



ATNI Annual 2025 Convention Suquamish, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 55

“SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE INDIAN TRUST ASSET REFORM ACT”

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, a unique government-to-government relationship exists between the United States and the governments of American Indian nations and Indigenous peoples founded upon treaties, statutes, and the federal trust responsibility; and

WHEREAS, for more than fifty years, Congress has taken consistent action to strengthen tribal self-governance and enable tribal nations to exercise their inherent sovereign authority, including through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (1975), the Tribal Self-Governance Act (1994), and the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (2016); and

WHEREAS, the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act (ITARA) was enacted to improve federal administration of trust resources and expand tribal self-determination in trust asset management, but implementation has been severely limited; and

WHEREAS, ITARA established the Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project, which is set to expire in June 2026, despite its potential to transform tribal self-governance; and

WHEREAS, ITARA does not define the term “Indian trust asset,” and past administrative interpretations have narrowly limited this term to only surface leasing and forest land management activities; and

WHEREAS, meaningful management of Indian trust assets requires comprehensive authority over all trust resources and the flexibility to adapt management approaches to meet evolving tribal needs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Indian Trust Asset Reform Amendment Act (introduced as H.R. 5515 in the 119th Congress) would strengthen ITARA by making the Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project permanent, expanding eligibility to Tribal organizations, preserving federal funding eligibility, broadening the definition of “trust assets,” and authorizing Tribal management plans to supersede regulations administered by other Federal departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation expands Tribal authority and creates a more flexible, common-sense framework for trust asset management; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would advance tribal self-determination, reduce inefficient federal oversight, honor the federal trust responsibility, and empower tribal governments to exercise greater control over their lands and resources; now

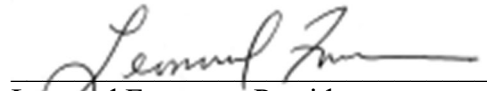
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI Supports legislation to amend and strengthen the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI recognizes the need for Congress to go further and explicitly define “Indian trust asset” to also explicitly include tribal jurisdictional authority necessary to regulate, manage and protect such assets; and

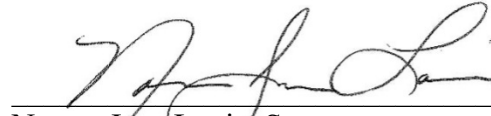
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Annual Convention held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, Washington on October 12-16, 2025, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary