



**2026 Winter Convention
Portland, Oregon**

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 003

**“RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING TO RESCIND ITS UNTAXED FUEL
STATION NOTICE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO
ENGAGE IN URGENT CONSULTATION TO HALT VIOLATIONS OF
TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERTRIBAL COMMERCE”**

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, intertribal trade has stood as a cornerstone for intertribal economics since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations possess inherent sovereign authority that predates the formation of the United States and is the foundation for Tribal self-governance and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Tribes have exercised their inherent sovereign authorities to establish economic enterprises that continue the proliferation of intertribal trade, including retail fuel stations; and

WHEREAS, in January 2025, ATNI adopted Resolution #2025-11 calling on the Washington Department of Licensing (DOL) to cease its harassment of Tribal fuel retailers, including falsely alleging Tribal Nations are violating fuel tax compacts, threatening compact revocations without legal basis, and placing Tribal fuel stations on lists that interfere with intertribal commerce; and

WHEREAS, despite Resolution #2025-11 and outreach from Tribal leaders, the DOL has made no reasonable efforts to address these concerns and has instead escalated its actions against Tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2025, the DOL issued a "Prorate and Fuel Tax Services Untaxed Fuel Station Notice" under the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA), publicly listing select Tribal fuel stations based on the DOL's prejudiced determination that applicable fuel taxes have not been paid, and directly notifying commercial truckers they will be held personally liable for Washington fuel taxes when purchasing fuel at these Tribal locations; and

WHEREAS, the DOL's actions are predatory, prejudicial, discriminatory, abusive, deceptive, and in direct violation of Tribal sovereignty and the principles of intergovernmental respect; and

WHEREAS, these actions have resulted in significant economic harm, with affected Tribes collectively losing over 14 million gallons in fuel sales as a direct result of DOL's actions, directly impacting their capacity to provide essential governmental services; and

WHEREAS, Tribal economic enterprises contribute significantly to regional economies through employment, infrastructure, healthcare, education, public safety, and other governmental functions that benefit both Tribal and non-Tribal populations, and the DOL's harassment campaign undermines these contributions and harms entire communities; and

WHEREAS, the sovereignty of Tribal Nations includes the inherent right to engage in commerce free from harassment, coercion, or interference by state agencies; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) to immediately cease its harassment of Tribal fuel retailers and rescind its August 29, 2025 "Prorate and Fuel Tax Services Untaxed Fuel Station Notice"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI demands the DOL respect established legal precedent affirming Tribal sovereignty over commerce on Tribal lands and honor the good faith government-to-government relationship it claims to uphold; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the State of Washington to respect the historical tradition of intertribal trade and the inherent sovereign rights of Tribal nations to make their own decisions regarding commerce and business relationships; and

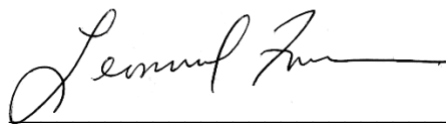
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the Washington State Attorney General's office to immediately intervene, schedule consultations with affected Tribal nations, and take action to halt the DOL's unlawful overreach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the State of Washington Legislature to take action urgently in the legislative session to clarify state law and prevent further state agency encroachment on Tribal sovereignty; and

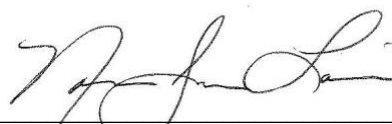
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2026 Winter Convention held at the Hilton Portland Downtown in Portland, Oregon, on February 1-5, 2026, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary