



**2026 Winter Convention
Portland, Oregon**

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 012

**“UPHOLDING TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND FEDERAL AUTHORITY
IN THE RECOGNITION OF TRIBAL APPRENTICESHIP 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, Tribal Nations are sovereign governments with Treaty rights and federally protected authority to operate workforce, education, and employment programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship is authorized under federal law to register, approve, and issue national credentials for apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs; and

WHEREAS, Tribal governments and federally registered intermediaries currently operate federally approved apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs serving Tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, Washington State and union-controlled apprenticeship councils have refused to recognize or accept federally issued Tribal apprenticeship credentials, particularly when programs are registered through federal or Idaho-based Office of Apprenticeship authorities; and

WHEREAS, this refusal blocks Tribal citizens from employment, licensing, wage progression, and workforce mobility despite holding valid federal credentials; and

WHEREAS, such conduct constitutes regulatory interference, discrimination, and violation of federal supremacy and Tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, Washington State’s denial of federally issued Tribal apprenticeship credentials is declared unacceptable and contrary to federal law and Tribal Treaty and trust obligations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon the U.S. Department of Labor to enforce national portability and recognition of federally approved Tribal apprenticeship programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington State’s denial of federally issued Tribal apprenticeship credentials is declared unacceptable and contrary to federal law and Tribal Treaty to federal law and Tribal Treaty and trust obligations; and

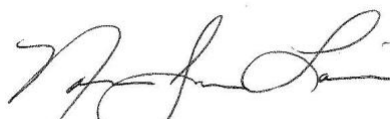
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

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