



2026 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 014

“SUPPORT OF ANNUAL RECURRING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION’S TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM AND TRIBAL-DRIVEN BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE”

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, access to reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband is critical to all Tribal self-determination, economic development, education, healthcare, public safety, and cultural preservation; and

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) was created to address historic and ongoing disparities in broadband access in Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, funding available through TBCP has been insufficient to meet demonstrated Tribal need, highlighting the necessity for predictable, recurring federal investment; and

WHEREAS, fiber-optic and high-capacity fixed wireless infrastructure provide scalable, reliable, and long-term broadband solutions, while low-impact technologies such as low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite services should be limited to circumstances where no feasible terrestrial alternative exists; and

WHEREAS, effective administration of the TBCP requires meaningful government-to-government consultation and adequate NTIA staffing dedicated to Tribal engagement and technical assistance; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby supports annual, recurring appropriations for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) sufficient to address Tribal broadband needs; urges the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to prioritize funding for fiber-optic and high-capacity fixed wireless projects that support long-term Tribal infrastructure goals; calls upon NTIA to fully staff the TBCP, including permanent personnel dedicated to Tribal relations and affirms the Tribal Nation's expectation of ongoing government-to-government consultation, respect for Tribal sovereignty, and Tribal decision-making authority in all aspects of broadband program development and implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI directs that this resolution be transmitted to NTIA, appropriate federal agencies, and Congressional delegations; 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