



**2026 Winter Convention  
Portland, Oregon**

**RESOLUTION # 2026 – 018**

**“PROTECTING THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD’S PUBLIC  
MEMBERS AND THE LOCATION OF THE OFFICE OF SUBSISTENCE  
MANAGEMENT”**

**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 State of Alaska is facing a growing and urgent food insecurity crisis, worsened by the catastrophic declines in our once-reliable salmon runs and wildlife populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the management of subsistence fishing and hunting on federal lands and waters in Alaska is regulated by the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB); and

**WHEREAS**, advocacy by Alaska Native organizations, including AFN, recently resulted in the addition of three new Tribally-nominated seats to the FSB, bringing the total number of public and Tribal seats held by rural subsistence users possessing personal knowledge of and direct experience with rural subsistence in Alaska to six (6), balancing the FSB between Alaskans with subsistence experience and politically appointed agency staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the FSB serves a necessary role in the management of fish and wildlife in Alaska because the state of Alaska is legally unable to enforce the rural priority for subsistence hunting and fishing established by Congress in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Native cultures depend economically and culturally upon the wild foods harvested from the sea, air, and land in rural Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safari Club International submitted a Petition for Revisions to the FSB in May of 2025, calling for the removal of the three public seats and the three Tribal seats on the FSB, requiring that the FSB defer to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and restrict the FSB's authority to manage fish and wildlife for the benefit of non-subsistence hunters and fishers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) is the office that administers the FSB; and

**WHEREAS**, advocacy by Alaska Native organizations, including AFN, recently resulted in the move of OSM out of the Fish & Wildlife Service into DOI's office of Policy, Management, and Budget (PMB); and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of the Interior's Order 3413, which moved the Office of Subsistence Management from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, and urges that the Secretaries maintain the present structure of the FSB and RACs; and

**WHEREAS**, OSM can better serve the subsistence priorities of rural Alaskans while residing within PMB; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to reject the Safari Club's Petition thereby maintaining the present composition of the FSB including the three public seats and three Tribal seats; and uphold the intent of Congress as expressed in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation

Act to protect rural Alaskan subsistence ways of life, and ensure that any action taken by the Department of the Interior or Department of Agriculture does not result in any lessening of subsistence protections for rural Alaskans and Alaska Natives; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls upon the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to hold an all-Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meeting and additional public meetings throughout Alaska with rural subsistence users before proposing any regulatory changes to revise the composition or powers of the FSB; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture engage in free and prior informed consent principles and government-to-government consultation with all Tribes in Alaska prior to considering any regulatory changes to revise the composition of powers of the FSB; and

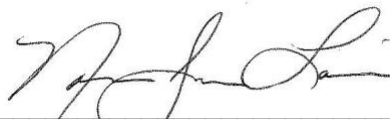
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

**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