



**2026 Annual Convention
Snoqualmie, Washington**

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 035

**“CALLING ON THE ADMINISTRATION TO APPORTION FISCAL
YEAR 2026 FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FUND”**

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, 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, in 1994, the United States Congress authorized the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, by way of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act; and

WHEREAS, with the creation of the CDFI Fund, an agency within the U.S. Department of Treasury, the 1994 legislation contained a provision mandating a study examining lending and investment practices in Native communities; and

WHEREAS, the resulting “Native American Lending Study”, completed in November of 2001, identified 17 major barriers to investment in Native communities, including complex land tenure, inability to collateralize trust assets, and infrastructure availability; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Lending Study further recommended the development of “Tribal or Inter-Tribal CDFIs, community banks, and other lending and investment institutions” to address these barriers and increase the flow of capital in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the study’s release resulted in the CDFI Fund’s establishment of its Native Initiatives and Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program, which awards Financial Assistance and Technical Assistance awards to Native CDFIs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to apportion the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund award programs so the Fund can issue Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) for the FY 2026 Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program’s Financial Assistance (FA) and Technical Assistance (TA) awards without further delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on Congress to reinforce its broad bipartisan support of Native CDFIs and the proven benefits they generate by ratifying legislative language compelling OMB to apportion FY 2026 funding for the CDFI Fund (including the NACA Program) to Treasury without further delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on funding the NACA Program at \$50 million annually in FY 2027 and beyond, with this long-overdue increase being justified due to the significant and rapidly growing unmet lending capital needs of Native CDFIs and the dramatic return on federal investment they generate in economic benefits for Native communities, including increases in small businesses and jobs, growing rates of Native homeownership, and improved client credit scores across Native communities – as well as Native CDFIs’ exceptional track record of attracting private sector investments multiple times over by leveraging the limited federal resources they receive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges Congress to make the NACA Program statutory, which helps protect it against future attacks by any administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges Congress to pass the Access to Fair Financing for Opportunity and Resilient Development (AFFORD) Act, a bipartisan bill that enhances federal support of Native CDFIs, notably by increasing the liquidity and lending

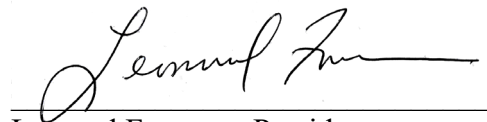
velocity of Native CDFIs nationwide, and making the highly successful United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Section 502 Native CDFI pilot relending program permanent, expanding it nationally, and authorizing and appropriating \$50 million of existing funding annually for the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be advanced to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and Native American Financing Officers Association (NAFOA); and

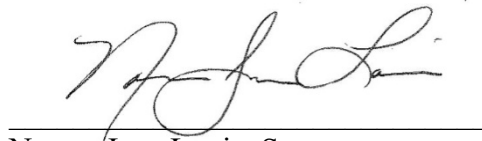
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2026 Annual Convention held at the Snoqualmie Casino and Hotel in Snoqualmie, Washington, on September 13-17, 2026, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary