



2026 Annual Convention Snoqualmie, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 037

“OPPOSITION TO WASHINGTON INITIATIVES I-001 AND I-638 AND SUPPORT FOR THE SAFETY AND DIGNITY OF ALL CHILDREN”

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, our children are sacred, and protecting young people from abuse, discrimination, isolation, and harm is a responsibility shared by families, communities, schools, and governments; and

WHEREAS, prior to colonization, many Tribal Nations had longstanding traditions of recognizing, respecting, and including relatives whose identities today may be described as Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, third gender, or fourth gender; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the National Congress of American Indians unanimously adopted the resolution Standing in Support of Our Two Spirit Relatives in Our Communities and Nations, affirming the full equality of Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ Tribal citizens and recognizing that Two Spirit youth experience disproportionate bullying and other harms that threaten their health, safety, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians passed Resolution RES-18-25 Support and Action for our Two Spirit Relatives—to champion equity, culturally responsive healthcare, and systemic inclusion for Two Spirit and LGBTQ+ indigenous individuals; and

WHEREAS, in March 2025, the National Indian Health Board also passed a landmark national resolution declaring tribal sovereignty over health issues affecting Native American and Alaska Native communities identifying transphobia and homophobia as distinct public health threats linked to elevated rates of self-harm, truancy, and incarceration among Indigenous youth; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly opposes Washington Initiatives I-001 and I-638 and finds that these measures are inconsistent with the Tribes' cultural, traditional values and commitment to protecting children, strengthening families, and ensuring the dignity and well-being of all young people; and,

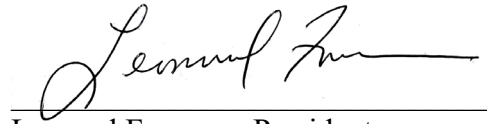
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI stands with Two Spirit, transgender, LGBTQ+, and gender-diverse youth and affirms that they are valued members of our families, communities, and Nations who deserve safety, dignity, opportunity, and belonging; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls for State policies affecting children and families to be grounded in protecting young people from abuse and harm, strengthening access to trusted support, respecting human dignity, and honoring the sovereignty and values of Tribal Nations; 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