



**2026 Annual Convention
Snoqualmie, Washington**

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 044

**“A RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE “KĀNAKA MOANA”
(INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN) AND CITIZENS OF
AMERICAN SAMOA CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON DEEP
SEABED MINING, MINERAL EXTRACTION, AND EXPLOITATION
ACTIVITIES”**

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, ATNI Tribes and their citizens are spiritually, culturally, and morally bound to steward their respective lands, waters, and natural resources since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Ocean is an interconnected and living system, and the health of its waters, marine ecosystems, fisheries, and species are interconnected across geographic and political boundaries, such that activities occurring in one region of the Pacific may have consequences for communities, ecosystems, and culturally significant resources throughout the broader Pacific; and

WHEREAS, numerous Tribal Nations, including ATNI Member Tribes, are intrinsically linked to the Pacific Ocean, and uphold the inherent responsibility to protect and steward the ocean and its resources for present and future generations, and recognize that the protection of marine ecosystems is inseparable from the protection of Indigenous cultures, communities, and ways of life; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has consolidated the functions of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) into the Minerals Management Administration (MMA), creating a new federal structure for the management, development, and oversight of offshore energy and mineral resources; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of ATNI that the United States has chosen to pursue deep seabed mining and mineral extraction in the waters of American Samoa an unincorporated territory of the United States; and

WHEREAS, these activities have been formally opposed by the territorial government of American Samoa by its legislature through resolution HCR 39-04 and its governor by its executive order 006-2024; and

WHEREAS, executive order 006-2024 highlights key factors such as, “the waters surrounding American Samoa are home to diverse and vibrant marine ecosystems, which are critical for the ecological balance, cultural heritage, and economic well-being of the territory and region” and “the people of American Samoa have a profound connection to the ocean, relying on it for sustenance, cultural practices, and economic activities, particularly through fisheries and tourism” and “deep sea mining poses significant risks to marine biodiversity, including the potential for habitat destruction, pollution, and the disruption of critical ecological processes, which could have irreversible impacts on marine life and local communities” and “there is insufficient scientific information and technological development to understand the full scope of potential impacts of seabed mining and technologies for extracting minerals from the ocean floor remain untested in terms of environmental safety”; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recognizes the concerns identified by American Samoa in executive order 006-2024 are consistent with the ATNI’s own longstanding advocacy that the ocean is not merely a resource, but a vital part of our cultural, spiritual, ecological, and economic well-being,

and that decisions affecting the ocean must account for the protection of marine life, Indigenous communities, and future generations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports and stands in solidarity with American Samoa, its citizens, and all Kānaka Moana directly impacted by any proposed deep seabed mining, mineral extraction, and ancillary or correlated industry activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI opposes any current federal permitting or environmental regulatory rollbacks related to deep seabed mining and mineral extraction that disregards the Self-Determination of American Samoa and traditional ecological knowledge of its people; and

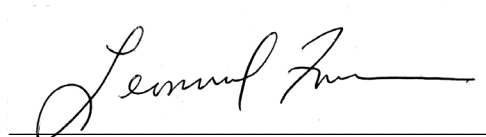
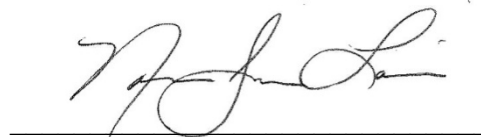
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls for a moratorium on deep seabed mining and mineral extraction permitting and further calls on the United States to conduct a full environmental impact statement review as prescribed by the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act and provide for meaningful consultation with American Samoa, its people, and all other relevant stakeholders regarding further development of deep seabed mining and mineral extraction regulatory permitting, leasing, and policy creation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be advanced to the National Congress of American Indians; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI shall advance this policy position to the National Congress of American Indians at their respective 2026 Annual Convention.

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