



2026 Annual Convention Snoqualmie, Washington

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 045

“SUPPORTING PROPOSED WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATION ENABLING THE WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT TO SUPPORT TRIBAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS RELATING TO ILLEGAL DRONE OPERATIONS OVER TRIBAL LANDS”

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, protecting Tribal citizens, reservation communities, sovereign land bases, natural resources, sacred cultural sites, and critical infrastructure, including energy grids, water systems, ports, and gaming/hospitality facilities—is paramount to Tribal governance and community safety; and

WHEREAS, unpiloted and unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS/drones) have expanded rapidly in capability and accessibility, creating serious public safety vulnerabilities when operated with criminal, hostile, negligent, or harassing intent near critical infrastructure, Tribal enterprises, and high-density public gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Law Enforcement (TLE) agencies often lack the specialized technical detection equipment, electronic mitigation tools, and interagency certifications required to effectively identify, monitor, track, and neutralize hostile or unauthorized drone intrusions within sovereign Tribal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, 1. Public events affecting public safety, security, or national interests; 2. Critical public infrastructure as defined by federal or Tribal law; 3. Traditional cultural properties as defined by WAC 365-196-450; 4. State facilities; and 5. Areas subject to emergency proclamations (disasters, public disorders, energy emergencies); and

WHEREAS, the draft legislation explicitly respects and preserves Tribal Sovereignty by mandating that:

- National Guard and State Guard personnel operating within Tribal jurisdiction must act at the request of and under the direction of Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies (Sec. 2(3));
- Any tactical or sensor data collected during joint operations shall be retained by the supported Tribal governments for evidentiary purposes (Sec. 2(4));
- Personnel deployed must meet rigorous federal training and certification standards established by the U.S. Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security (Sec. 2(2)); now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI formally supports and urges the Washington State Legislature and the Governor of Washington to enact proposed legislation amending Chapter 38.08 RCW to authorize Washington Military Department C-UAS (counter drone) operational assistance to Tribal Law Enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI commends the bill’s statutory framework requiring Guard forces to operate strictly under the direction and command of Tribal Law Enforcement on sovereign Tribal lands, establishing a model for state-Tribal homeland defense interoperability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon the Washington State Military Department (WSMD), in consultation with sovereign Northwest Tribes, to develop joint Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and mutual aid protocols through the WSMD Tribal Liaison to ensure rapid operational deployment during declared emergencies, public safety events, and critical infrastructure defense missions; and

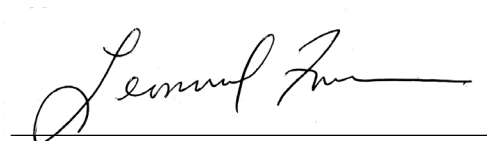
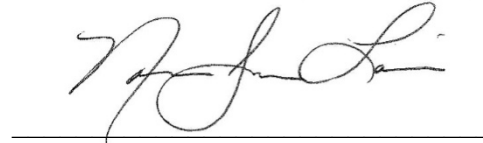
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges congressional delegations and state legislatures across the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Alaska) to adopt equivalent statutory language modeled after Washington's Chapter 38.08 RCW amendment to ensure seamless, region-wide C-UAS defense across all sovereign Tribal jurisdictions; and

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