



**2026 Annual Convention
Snoqualmie, Washington**

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 052

**“OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED WEST COAST OIL PIPELINE
FROM ALBERTA TO SOUTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND
ASSOCIATED INCREASES IN OIL TANKER TRAFFIC”**

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, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) represents Tribal Nations throughout the Pacific Northwest whose peoples have maintained cultural, spiritual, subsistence, and economic relationships with the lands, waters, salmon, and other relatives of this region since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations possess inherent sovereignty and, for many Northwest Tribes, treaty-reserved rights to fish at usual and accustomed places and to continue cultural and subsistence practices dependent upon healthy and abundant fish populations and functioning aquatic ecosystems, and the United States has a trust responsibility to protect tribal treaty and reserved rights; and

WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of salmon is inseparable from the exercise of Tribal treaty rights, Tribal cultures, food sovereignty, ceremonies, economies, and the responsibilities Tribal Nations carry to future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Alberta has proposed the West Coast Oil Pipeline, an approximately 1,250-kilometre interprovincial pipeline capable of transporting approximately one million barrels of crude oil per day from the Edmonton region of Alberta to a proposed deep-water marine terminal in southern British Columbia; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2026, the Government of Canada formally referred the proposed West Coast Oil Pipeline to Canada's Major Projects Office for consideration, and the project remains in the early stages of development with its precise route yet to be determined; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline would cross numerous rivers, streams, watersheds, and aquatic ecosystems between Alberta and the southern coast of British Columbia, creating risks to fish habitat, water quality, and Indigenous peoples and communities that depend upon healthy waters and fisheries; and

WHEREAS, salmon are a transboundary species that migrate through waters of the United States and Canada and connect Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples throughout the Pacific Northwest, and impacts to salmon habitat and survival in one jurisdiction can have consequences throughout the interconnected ecosystems upon which Northwest Tribal Nations depend; and

WHEREAS, crude oil derived from the Alberta oil sands, including diluted bitumen, presents risks to freshwater and marine ecosystems in the event of a spill, and scientific research has demonstrated physiological and metabolic effects from diluted-bitumen exposure in salmon, including effects on cardiac and skeletal muscle systems; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline is being considered as a “project of national interest” under the Building Canada Act, which fast-tracks major projects before conducting impact assessments, such that the current consultation concerns only whether to list the Project, while the environmental review, conditions, and consolidated Conditions Document follow only after listing and the Major Projects Office itself has acknowledged that the pace at which the Government of Canada is advancing such projects is “unprecedented”; and

WHEREAS, the proposed West Coast Oil Pipeline would terminate at Roberts Bank, a marine facility in southern British Columbia located at the mouth of the Fraser River, immediately adjacent to Point Roberts on U.S. soil in Whatcom County, where crude oil would be loaded onto marine vessels for transportation to export markets creating the potential for additional oil tanker traffic through shared and transboundary marine waters; and

WHEREAS, the additional oil tanker traffic through shared and transboundary marine waters would increase the risk of vessel strikes and oil spills and compound the effects of existing and expanding development in the same waters including the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 container expansion, the existing Deltaport and Westshore terminals, and the recent and proposed increases in tanker traffic from the Trans Mountain pipeline system cumulative burden on this shared estuary and on the migratory species that pass through it has never been assessed on both sides of the international boundary; and

WHEREAS, federal and state laws including RCW 88.16.190 and the Magnuson-Stevens Act Amendment have been enacted to prevent catastrophic oil spills in the fragile, confined marine environments of the Salish Sea that restrict oil tanker operations in Washington State waterways; and

WHEREAS, the Salish Sea is a transboundary ecosystem encompassing the inland marine waters of Washington State and British Columbia and is the home and migratory habitat of salmon, Southern Resident killer whales, and numerous other species of profound cultural and ecological importance to Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, Southern Resident killer whales are endangered and continue to face serious threats from inadequate availability of salmon prey, vessel traffic and underwater noise, disturbance, pollution, and contaminants; and

WHEREAS, increased vessel traffic and underwater noise can interfere with Southern Resident killer whales' ability to communicate, echolocate, forage, rest, and successfully obtain salmon prey, while an oil spill within their habitat could cause additional harm to the whales, their prey, and the marine ecosystem upon which they depend; and

WHEREAS, Chinook salmon are an essential prey species for Southern Resident killer whales, meaning further harm to salmon populations and salmon habitat may also compound existing threats to Southern Resident killer whale recovery; and

WHEREAS, the lands, waters, salmon, killer whales, and other relatives of the Pacific Northwest do not recognize the international border between Canada and the United States, and environmental impacts originating in one jurisdiction may have consequences for Indigenous peoples, Tribal Nations, treaty-protected resources, and ecosystems across that border; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations have inherent sovereign authority, inherent rights and sacred responsibilities to protect their peoples, lands, waters, treaty resources, cultural practices, and future generations, and decisions concerning major industrial projects with potential

transboundary impacts must meaningfully account for Tribal rights, knowledge, interests, and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the protection of clean water, healthy salmon populations, Southern Resident killer whales, and intact ecosystems is necessary to ensure that future generations can continue to exercise their rights, practice their cultures, harvest traditional foods, and maintain their relationships with the lands and waters that have sustained Indigenous peoples since time immemorial; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI formally opposes the listing and fast-tracking of the proposed West Coast Oil Pipeline from Alberta to southern British Columbia, as a “project of national interest” under the Building Canada Act, which carries major transboundary and far-reaching marine impacts that extend well beyond Canada's borders into the shared waters and treaty-protected resources of the Pacific Northwest and that threatens Tribal rights, Indigenous peoples, salmon, Southern Resident killer whales, water quality, and the shared ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urgently oppose the listing of the West Coast Oil Pipeline as a "project of national interest" and oppose the fast-tracking and streamlined federal review of a project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon the governments of the State of Washington, the United States and Canada to recognize and address the potential transboundary impacts of the proposed pipeline and associated marine shipping upon Tribal Nations, treaty-protected resources, salmon, Southern Resident killer whales, and shared waters of the Pacific Northwest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls for the government of Canada and the United States to facilitate the Boundary Water Treaty Act of 1909. Calling on the Global Affairs Canada and the State Department of the United States to make a reference to the International Joint Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls for meaningful government-to-government engagement with potentially affected Tribal Nations regarding any project, permit, authorization, or governmental decision that may affect Tribal rights, treaty-protected resources, salmon, marine ecosystems, or transboundary waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI stands in solidarity with Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples working to protect their territories, waters, salmon, cultural resources, and future generations from the impacts of the proposed West Coast Oil Pipeline and associated oil tanker traffic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI will advocate for the protection and restoration of the lands, waters, salmon, Southern Resident killer whales, and other relatives that sustain the cultures, rights, economies, health, and ways of life of Indigenous peoples throughout the Pacific Northwest for present and future generations; and

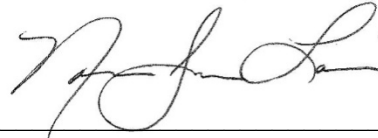
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution(s).

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