



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2007 Winter Conference Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #07 - 05

"SUPPORTING OREGON EFFORTS TO RECYCLE MERCURY FROM COMPUTERS AND DENTAL FILLINGS"

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 representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, recent studies conducted by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revealed dangerous levels of methylmercury in eels, sturgeon, and other fish and unacceptable levels in salmon in the Columbia River; and

WHEREAS, a study completed in 2006 by Oregon State University confirmed the results of the Tribes/EPA study and demonstrated dangerous levels of methylmercury in fish throughout the Northwest; and

WHEREAS, methylmercury is an acute neurotoxin and the Oregon Legislative Assembly so declared in 2001, that causes brain damage and depression; and

WHEREAS, it is our duty to our children and to future generations to protect from poisoning the salmon, lamprey eels, sturgeon and other fish that our people have relied on for survival since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, computer switches, relays, and circuit boards contain mercury that is tossed into the waste stream at the rate of 270 pounds per year and this is enough to continue to harm fish and our children; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Legislative Assembly passed a law in 2006, Senate Bill 6428, to require e-waste reuse and recycling; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon House Speaker introduced House Bill 2395 to require e-waste reuse and recycling in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, mercury amalgam dental fillings are 50% mercury and replacing and placing fillings annually puts over 265 pounds of mercury into waste treatment plants, which ends up in the environment, including about 40 pounds of mercury into Oregon waterways each year; and

WHEREAS, mercury separators capture 98% of the mercury waste in dental offices and King County, Washington now requires separators, reducing mercury flow into waterways from dental offices by about 60%; and

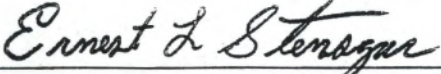
WHEREAS, the Oregon Legislative Assembly is considering Senate Bill 6428 to require mercury separators in dental offices and recycling of captured mercury; now

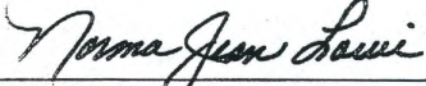
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby supports efforts of both Washington and Oregon to prevent the pollution of our rivers and streams with mercury by reusing and recycling computers and related equipment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the efforts of King County, Washington, and the Oregon Legislative Assembly to prevent dentists from polluting our rivers and streams with mercury from dental fillings by requiring mercury separators in dental offices.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2007 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport Hotel Portland, Oregon on February 15, 2007, with a quorum present.


Ernest L. Stensgar, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary