



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2007 Winter Conference Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #07 - 13

"COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY FISHING ACCESS SITES"

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, the Celilo Wy-Am Board made up of representatives of the Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakama Tribes and residents of Celilo Village is the governing body of Celilo Village; and

WHEREAS, Indian people of the Northwest Tribes gathered at Celilo Falls to fish, trade and share religious and social ceremonies for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, Celilo Village, adjacent to the now-inundated Celilo Falls, was relocated in the 1950's to make way for development of the mainstem Columbia River hydropower system; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 the Treaty Fishing Access Site Act was signed into law recognizing the federal government's 1939 promises to compensate for the loss of treaty fishing access that had not been fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, the standard of living at Celilo Village has been extremely substandard in terms of basic health, safety and human services since it was relocated due to initial inadequate construction and lack of management tools; and

WHEREAS, through the persistent advocacy of the Yakama, Umatilla and Warm Springs Indian Tribes acting as the Celilo Wy-Am Board and our Northwest Congressional delegation, redevelopment of Celilo Village was authorized by Congress and signed into law by the President as an amendment to the Treaty Fishing Access Law; and

WHEREAS, the USACE has successfully completed 80% of the Treaty Fishing Access Sites project and construction of a new Celilo Village is well underway and it is estimated seamless funding will allow the federal government to fulfill its commitment to complete treaty fishing access projects by 2011; and

WHEREAS, construction at the Village in the backdrop of the March 2007 fifty (50) year observance of the loss of Celilo Falls from inundation by The Dalles Dam will bring national attention to the U.S. Government's commitment to mitigating the impacts of Columbia River hydropower development to Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the administration's Fiscal Year 2008 budget does not include funds for Treaty Fishing Access projects for the first time since 1990, therefore delaying, if not curtailing, completion of construction of Celilo Village; and

WHEREAS, continued funding is critical to improve substandard housing and resolve water and sewer system, health and safety issues and support for the continued redevelopment of Celilo Village will represent a restoration of good faith in the fulfillment of a long-standing promise to compensate for Treaty Fishing Access Site losses; and


WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians supports maintaining funding levels for essential facilities that is finally providing a better life for residents of Celilo Village. Congressional support over the last several years, including passage of amendments to the CRTFAS Act in 2004 that included Celilo Village Redevelopment has reinforced the Federal Government's recognition of the importance of Celilo Fall's history to the northwest region; and

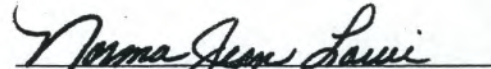
WHEREAS, the Cultural Resource Committee of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on February 6, 2007, gave its support to the Wy-Am Board's submittal of this Resolution to the ATNI; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby is requesting the Northwest Congressional delegation take action to assure FY 2008 funding to sustain the critical progress on Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites (CRTFAS) projects, particularly current construction activity at Celilo Village.

CERTIFICATION

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


Ernest L. Stensgar, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary