



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2007 Winter Conference Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #07 - 14

"CELILO FALLS MEMORIAL"

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, *Wy-Am*, the great falls of *Chi'wana*, known to us also as Celilo Falls of the Columbia River, was a gift from the Creator that roared and thundered for millennia, providing American Indians of the Pacific Northwest with an enormous bounty of salmon and other fish that fed our people, fueled our economy, nurtured our culture, and sustained our religion; and

WHEREAS, the area around Celilo Falls is one of the longest continuously occupied sites on the continent, and for thousands of years of human civilization served as a great marketplace and gathering point for trade, commerce, and traditional social, religious and ceremonial practices among native peoples of the region; and

WHEREAS, this beating heart of the river that was—and is—a primary artery of our culture was tragically stilled fifty years ago, on March 10, 1957, when the reservoir impounded by The Dalles Dam drowned Celilo Falls; and

WHEREAS, The Dalles Dam is but one of many large dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers and their tributaries that are owned and operated or licensed by the federal government, and that have not only destroyed fishing sites like Celilo Falls, but have also damaged and degraded the once-abundant fish populations and the health of the very rivers themselves; and

WHEREAS, these profound losses have resulted in substantial harm to tribal people and communities and have impacted our inherent tribal sovereignty, which is based in part on the free exercise of our rights to fish, hunt and gather; and

WHEREAS, the drowning of Celilo Falls and the ongoing destruction of fish and other natural and cultural resources occurred (and continue to occur) despite, and contrary to, the United States' commitments, obligations and duties under many various treaties, executive orders, judicial opinions and the doctrine of Trust Responsibility; now

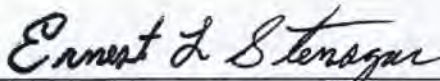
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby supports that the immeasurable loss of Celilo Falls to Indian People can never be mitigated, but on the sad occasion of its 50th anniversary, the ATNI mourns its passing and remembers its glory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI commits to working toward a future where the costs of "progress" and "development" are no longer disproportionately borne at the expense of tribal rights and interests; and

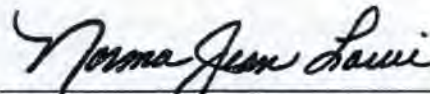
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that the federal government, in coordination with tribal and state governments and the Northwest Congressional delegation, commit and act to protect, recover and restore salmon and other fish and wildlife populations impacted by the same hydrosystem that stilled Celilo Falls, providing equitable treatment to those "non-power" resources such that they exist in abundant, healthy, harvestable numbers so that the United States may finally act consistently with the treaties it signed, its executive orders, and its Trust Responsibility to Indian tribes.

CERTIFICATION

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



Ernest L. Stensgar, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary