



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2007 Winter Conference Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #07 - 15

"SENATE BILL 5938 WASHINGTON'S INDIAN GRAVES AND RECORDS ACT (IGRA) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS"

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, Senate Bill (S.B.) 5938 seeks to eliminate the word "Indian" from Washington's Indian Graves and Records Act (IGRA), and to amend our current protections afforded tribes and their ancestors in the State's Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries and Historic Graves Act; and

WHEREAS, S.B. 5938, which was introduced without proper government-to-government consultation with tribes, goes against the spirit and letter of local, tribal, state

and federal law and policy by threatening to: remove existing Indian grave protections; facilitate the widespread uprooting and removal of Indian graves; and, greatly marginalize tribal influence in the treatment of our ancestors' graves and other ceremonial objects or grave goods; and

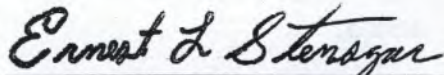
WHEREAS, that ATNI opposes S.B. 5938 because it would insert the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) into the reinterment process, and repeal the current provision that allows reinterment solely under tribal supervision; and

WHEREAS, that ATNI member tribes oppose Washington State's efforts to facilitate digging up and relocating the contents of Indian graves; now

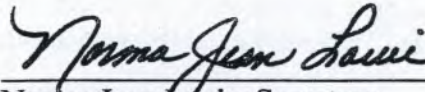
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby opposes S.B. 5938 in its entirety.

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