



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2007 Winter Conference Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #07 - 27

"TRUST REFORM STRATEGY"

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, ATNI 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 ATNI; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2005, the ATNI adopted Resolution #05-02, which called upon the U.S. Congress to convene hearings to examine the status of the implementation of the 1994 Indian Trust Reform Act, the on-going role of the Office of the Special Trustee (OST), and the effects of the reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on tribal self-determination; and

WHEREAS, as a follow-up to the ATNI resolution, the Confederated Colville Tribes, the Lummi Indian Nation, the Hoopa Tribe and the Quinault Indian Nation formed a Tribal Coalition for Trust Reform that developed and submitted to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs draft trust reform legislation, key concepts of which Chairman McCain and Vice-

Chairman Dorgan subsequently introduced in the 109th Congress as S.1439, the "Indian Trust Reform Act of 2005"; and

WHEREAS, attempts to negotiate a legislative settlement of the *Cobell* case were unsuccessful in the 109th Congress and, as a result, no action was possible on S.1439 despite ongoing tribal concerns with the administration of OST and with attempts by the Bush Administration to redefine and restrict the scope of federal trust duties to tribes; and

WHEREAS, recent federal court decisions in the *Cobell* case make it extremely unlikely that the Bush Administration will agree to any multi-billion dollar settlement of the *Cobell* litigation without the inclusion of additional concepts and provisions that are wholly unacceptable to Indian Country; now

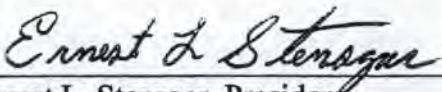
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby endorses and supports the legislative and political strategy recommendations of the ATNI Trust Reform Working Group designed to maintain ATNI's leadership on these issues as presented to a special meeting of the ATNI Board on December 22, 2006, in Portland, Oregon, with the following recommendations for the 110th Congress:

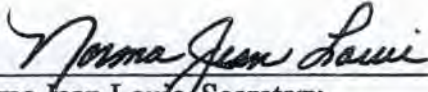
- Request Congressional oversight hearings on the adverse impacts on tribal interests, including tribal economic development, of the Department of the Interior's Indian trust management policies; and
- Reintroduce trust reform legislation (a) with key provisions that were included in S.1439 as introduced in the 109th Congress, but without provisions relating to settlement of the *Cobell* litigation; and (b) that provides new authority for tribal management of tribal trust lands and related assets, at the option of each tribe, as an amendment to the Indian Self-determination Act

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly recommends to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI); United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET); Great Plains Chairman's Association and the Intertribal Monitoring Association that they also support these legislative proposals and join ATNI in urging the congressional committees of jurisdiction to conduct oversight hearings on trust reform.

CERTIFICATION

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


Ernest L. Stensgar, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary