



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington

RESOLUTION #08 - 07

"2008 FEDERAL TAX LEGISLATION"

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, in the 2008 session of the 110th Congress, federal legislators are likely to consider several pieces of tax legislation that would impact tribal economic development; and

WHEREAS, although tribes do not pay federal income taxes, federal tax legislation bears directly on the ability of tribes to raise money or attract investment for

capital projects or to offer as an incentive to partners to join tribes in economic development; and

WHEREAS, under the Indian Tax Status Act, tribes can issue tax exempt bonds only for a very narrow range of activities that the IRS has defined as "essential governmental functions," but local governments may use bonds to finance a much broader range of activities, including energy development and other similar activities; and

WHEREAS, unlike most local governments, tribal governments are directly responsible for generating revenue through economic development to serve growing tribal member needs and if tax exempt bonding for tribes were extended to include activities such as energy projects, they would be less expensive to finance and could generate more revenue for tribal governmental needs; and

WHEREAS, under other tax code provisions, tax-paying companies that locate a facility in Indian country may take advantage of accelerated depreciation of the capital investment in the plant and equipment and may take advantage of tax credits for the wages they pay tribal members that they hire; and

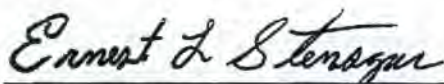
WHEREAS, renewal of the accelerated depreciation and Indian wage tax credit tax provisions is normally made on a year-to-year basis without any controversy in a tax extenders bill, the existing tax provisions expired on December 31, 2000. The failure to reauthorize the tax provisions creates significant uncertainty for businesses located in Indian Country and may impact the ability of these facilities to continue to operate, and the yearly renewal process for the provisions makes longer term planning difficult for businesses; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports tax-exempt bonding authorization in the Indian Tax Status Act that would allow tribal governments to use them to help finance any facility on-reservation, including economic development activities, and for essential governmental functions off-reservation; and

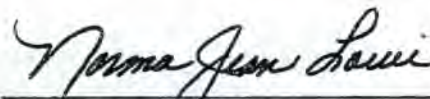
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports immediate renewal of the accelerated depreciation and Indian wage tax credits provisions to be made retroactive to January 1, 2008, and supports longer-term renewals of these tax provisions.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Washington on January 25, 2008, with a quorum present.



Ernest L. Stensgar, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary