



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington

RESOLUTION #08 - 12

“Recognition of the Washington State Liquor Control Board and Safeway Store on the Yakama Reservation”

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 disproportionate impact of liquor sales and number of outlets on or near Indian Reservations has a direct effect on the social, emotional, health, and well being of Native families and communities; and

WHEREAS, recently tribal parents, families and non-tribal community members of the White Swan and Harrah communities on the Yakama Reservation were effective in urging the Washington State Liquor Control Board to deny a third liquor license in the small community of Harrah where almost 80% of the students are Yakama tribal members; and

WHEREAS, RCW 66.24.010 (9) (a) cites that "The board shall issue no beer retailer license.....if such premises are within 500 feet of the premises of any tax-supported public elementary or secondary school measured along the most direct route over or across established public walks, streets, or other public passageway from the main entrance of the school to the nearest public entrance of the premises proposed for license"; and

WHEREAS, intervening on behalf of our families and children's health and long-term wellness requires vigilance and recovery of the multi-generational devastation of alcoholism and substance abuse problems which has impacted out communities and our families for too long; and

WHEREAS, previous actions taken by the Yakama Nation to ban alcohol on the Yakama Reservation resulted in the Safeway Store to discontinue and the Washington State Liquor Retail Store to relocate their alcohol distribution and sales in Toppenish, Washington; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians applaud the Washington State Liquor Control Board for considering the pleas of the community members to deny the approval of the liquor license in Harrah, Washington; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, both the Safeway Store and the Washington State Liquor Retail Store are to be recognized for their decision to support the Yakama Nation and tribal community members to ban alcohol from the Yakama Reservation.

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