



## Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

### **2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington**

#### **RESOLUTION #08 - 31**

#### **"SUPPORTING A NATIONAL PROGRAM TO REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE, STOP GLOBAL WARMING AND PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY"**

#### **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**, tribes of the Pacific Northwest have rights to, and interests in, natural and cultural resources on which are shared tribal religious and cultural practices are based; these practices include fishing, hunting, gathering and other activities through which we carry on our tribal traditions and ways of life; and

**WHEREAS**, all these natural and cultural resources, our religious and cultural practices, and our traditions and ways of life have developed according to prevailing natural climate patterns and regimes; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is real and is already occurring; there is scientific consensus that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere are having a profound effect on the Earth's climate; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change will have significant impacts on critical traditional tribal food sources such as fish, whales, caribou, moose, seabirds, waterfowl, traditional plant foods, and medicines and will present serious challenges to native subsistence, ceremonial and economic activities throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond; and

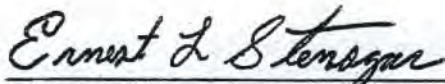
**WHEREAS**, climate-related changes to the weather, food sources, and local landscapes undermine the social identity and cultural survival of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and create new challenges for community health systems, rural infrastructure and economies; and

**WHEREAS**, we can no longer afford to ignore the consequences of global warming; we must act now to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions below current levels, before we reach the point where global warming cannot be reversed; now

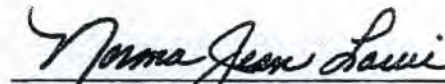
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to develop and adopt a comprehensive program to reduce climate change, stop global warming, and promote renewable energy sources as soon as possible to prevent irreversible harm to public health, the economy and the environment.

#### 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