

# **2009 Winter Conference Tulalip, Washington**

## **RESOLUTION #09 - 16**

### **"SUPPORT OREGON TRIBES' LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO EXTEND THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR TRIBAL LANDS IN THE FEE-TO-TRUST CONVERSION PROCESS"**

#### **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**, the varied and unique land statuses of Oregon Tribes complicate the taxation, regulation, and land tenure of any given Tribe's holdings and that innovation is necessary to leverage a Tribe's competitive advantages to the benefit of that Tribe, their communities, and adjacent jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the nine Tribes of Oregon have created a working group to analyze and advocate collectively for laws and recognition for tools that will both clarify and create value for the governmental and economic development initiatives of the Tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent trust land processes of the Secretary of Interior have increased with higher levels of review and approval authority along with local and State level consultation; and

**WHEREAS**, many Oregon Tribes have formal or informal understandings with their local governments on disclosure of trust conversions and provisions for the coverage of essential governmental services the property would enjoy; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing Oregon Statutes (ORS 307.181) allows for a 5 year property tax exemption for property acquired by a Tribe which is in the fee-to-trust process and that provision will sunset in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, a legislative concept (LC 2540) has been developed by Legislative Counsel, thanks to the initial support of new Oregon Commission on Indian Services member, Senator Ted Ferrioli of John Day and the Senate Republican Leader; and

**WHEREAS**, as of this resolution, the Tribes have secured the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, the Speaker Pro Tem, two members of the cognizant Revenue Committee, totaling 6 Senators and 3 Representatives of the Oregon Legislature; and

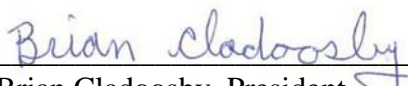
**WHEREAS**, the nine Tribes of Oregon are now in various levels of collaborative dialogue with State agencies, local governments, and Legislative leadership to actively support these and future efforts; now

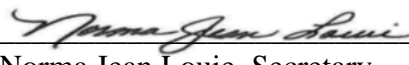
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians express their support of indefinitely extending ORS 307.181 and removing the 5 year exemption for properties in the trust conversion process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ATNI will expect a report in an upcoming ATNI convention as to the progress of those discussions along with recommendations to encourage other Northwest States to similarly support the land tenure and economic development efforts of that State's Tribes.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Tulalip Resort and Casino in Tulalip, Washington on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with a quorum present.

  
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Brian Cladoosby, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary