

**2009 Mid-Year Conference
Reno, Nevada**

RESOLUTION #09 - 46

“FRENCHTOWN & BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC SITE”

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, after several years of planning and efforts to acquire, protect and interpret the Frenchtown Historic Site west of Walla Walla, construction funding is now being sought for an interpretive center, an interpretive overlook, trails and restoration of native and riparian habitat on 50 acres being donated to the Frenchtown Historical Foundation by local landowners; and

WHEREAS, the project's three goals are to enhance our economy through tourism, increase cultural understanding, and protect our environment, additional details of which are online at www.frenchtownpartners@zoomshare.com; and

WHEREAS, the Frenchtown site, just west of the Whitman Mission near Walla Walla in the homeland of the Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes, was settled by former Hudson Bay Company employees and Indian wives beginning in 1823, and was the center point of the 1855 Battle of Walla Walla between European immigrants and area tribes, during which Walla Walla Chief Peopeomoxmox was killed while under a flag of truce, and

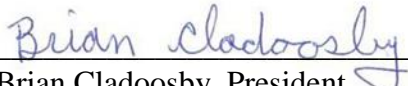
WHEREAS, the Frenchtown Historic Site, lying along the Walla Walla River, is also the site of the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Mission and Cemetery, and provides a dramatic contrast between the relations of its French-Canadian/Metis inhabitants with local tribes, and the experience of American Protestant missionaries at the nearby Whitman Mission National Historic Site, and

WHEREAS, this battleground is sacred to the homeland tribes whose ancestors lived, fought and died there, and deserves to be protected and to be respectfully interpreted to the public in order to increase cultural understanding and respect for the various cultures connected to the site; now

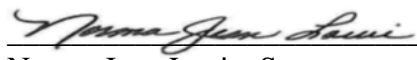
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby endorses efforts to acquire, protect, and interpret the Frenchtown Historic Site near Walla Walla, and urge all interested governmental agencies and private interests to consider contributions of resources to assist in these important purposes.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Mid-Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Silver Legacy Casino, Reno, Nevada on May 18-21, 2009 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary