

2009 Mid-Year Conference Reno, Nevada

RESOLUTION #09 - 48

“SACRED TRUST OF CIVILIZATION”

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 United States had negotiated over seven hundred treaties with the Indian Tribes, and ratified by securing Consent of the U.S. Senate, and proclaiming the treaties binding by Presidential Proclamations, and that the U.S. had, by taking the benefits of all treaties negotiated, ratified all said treaties, in exchange the U.S. secured nearly four million square miles of land and natural resources from the Indian Nations; and

WHEREAS, the United States has assumed the Sacred Trust of Civilization duties and responsibilities owed to the Indian Tribes and the Sacred Trust guarantees that the “lesser nation” in the treaty-relationship shall secure and benefit equally, in all areas, from the progress made by the “greater nation;” and

WHEREAS, failure of the United States to live up to and abide by the Sacred Trust of Civilization has resulted in the socio-economic marginalization of the Indian Nations and Tribal Indians and that conditions nearing genocidal dimensions exist in Indian Country; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon President Obama to develop an Indian Affairs Policy that shall honor and implement the Sacred Trust of Civilization duties & responsibilities the United States owes to the Indian Nations and tribal people, and to develop said policy in such form as to require all federal departments and agencies to assure there are funding line items in their budgets and appropriations requests annually to specifically to help the Indian governments deliver and manage essential governmental functions, services, and protect treaty rights and executive order tribal rights, and all other such rights and benefits guaranteed by or secured by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President, as Chief Executive, under mandate of the Constitution, has the power to manage and govern over the laws and policies applied to the Indian Tribes, and recognizes that he has the constitutional duty and power to recognize that the intergovernmental relationship with the Indian Tribes is nation-to-nation, as already proclaimed by the Bi-Centennial Congress in the Iroquois/Choctaw Resolutions; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that President Obama shall work with the U.S. Congress to authorize and expand tribal rights, and assure that Compacting shall continue, and that all funds transferred to all tribes shall have contract support funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that President Obama shall be called upon to assure that his Executive Cabinet represents the permanent and long-term interests of Indian Country, and that each federal department and agency shall develop an Indian Desk and Office located therein that shall report to the respective officer on the Executive Cabinet on progress and needed support or changes required for each respective department or agency to comply with the tribal goals and the implementation of the Sacred Trust of Civilization duties and responsibilities; and


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the President is called upon to convene a White House Meeting with the Indian Nations, to consult with the Indian Nations leadership, and to collectively invite the tribal leadership to participate in structuring a more permanent Indian Policy aligned with the Congress and the Constitution, and enacted as law.

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