



2009 Annual Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 - 68

“EFFECTIVE INCLUSION OF TRIBES IN THE ARRA BROADBAND PROGRAMS”

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 following federal agencies; Federal communications Commission (FCC), Department of Commerce’s (DOC) National telecommunications and information Administration (NTIA) and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Services (USDA RUS) do not currently integrate Indian Law principles that appropriately recognizes

Tribes and the Federal Trust Responsibility in the ARRA broadband Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA); and

WHEREAS, NTIA and USDA RUS have not effectively consulted with the Tribal Leaders prior to the first ARRA broadband NOFA, consistent with the Executive Order 13175 entitled, "Consultation and Coordination with the Indian Tribal Governments" through direct consultations sessions with the Tribal Leaders; now

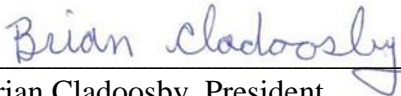
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians does hereby request that the Commerce Department's National telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hold appropriate consultations sessions for the Tribal leaders for a National Broadband plan in Indian County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) directly fund tribes for broadband mapping and planning; and


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Services (RUS) create a Tribal Liaison position, set-aside and establish a tribal priority for broadband funding, as is consistent with the Federal Governments Trust Responsibility.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center, Tacoma, Washington on September 21 - 24, 2009 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary