



2009 Annual Conference Tacoma, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 -74

“PRESIDENT OBAMA’S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON NATION TO NATION RELATIONSHIPS”

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, American Indian and Alaska Native nations and tribes (Indian Tribes) are recognized by the US Constitution as prior sovereign indigenous governments, and the federal government has through statute, executive orders and federal court decision confirmed that the Indian Tribes possess treaty protected rights to self-government and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, as a Presidential candidate, Barack Obama visited with Tribal leaders in Indian country and pledged to respect our Nation-to-Nation relationships with the United States, to respect our unique sovereign governmental authority and honor our treaties; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has made important appointments of Native Americans to the White House and to executive departments' key senior level positions; and

WHEREAS, it is time to advance a White House national meeting with Tribal leaders and the announcement of the Obama Administration's Nation-to-Nation policy with clear instructions all departments and agencies, as well as the Independent Agencies to implement this policy and commitment before the end of 2009; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges President Obama to host a White House meeting with Tribal leaders, announce a special message to Congress, and issue a new Executive Order promoting the new Native American Nation-to-Nation policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the new Obama Administration to reaffirm and strengthen the Executive Order on Nation-to-Nation Relationships and should include the following principles and instructions:

- Affirm the original, inherent sovereign status of Indian tribes;
- Renew the United States pledge to honor Indian treaties;
- Affirm the federal government's commitment to restore and protect Indian lands as permanent tribal homelands;
- Re-affirm the Constitution's provisions on the unique sovereign authority of Indian tribes and our unique historical Nation-to-Nation relationship;
- Affirm the principle that our Nation-to-Nation relationship is based upon mutual consent and respect and direct executive departments, agencies, and independent agencies to apply this policy in their work with Indian tribes through specific polices implementing this Executive Order;
- Authorize and direct each department and agency to establish a tribal government support office, reporting on a regular basis to the appropriate Secretary, Attorney General, Agency Head, or Commission;
- Establish an Executive Branch Nation-to-Nation Advisory Council chaired by the Secretary of the Interior and co-chaired by another Secretary on a rotating basis to meet monthly with senior level officials of Executive Departments and Agencies with Indian country responsibilities;
- Establish a Native American desk at the Office of Management and Budget(OMB) to coordinate policy, programs and funding for tribal governments and tribal citizens;
- Affirm a commitment to an Annual White House meeting with Tribal Leaders and direct the White House Chief of Staff to convene at least a bi-annual Cabinet Meeting with Tribal leadership

; and

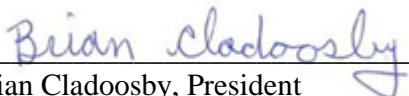
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the member Tribes of ATNI are encouraged to pass similar resolutions requesting the Obama Administration to take the actions outlined in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI is instructed to submit this resolution to NCAI at the Annual Session in Palm Spring, CA for consideration; and

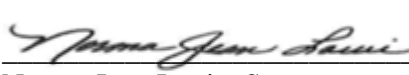
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until otherwise amended or rescinded.

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