



2010 Winter Conference

Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, WA

RESOLUTION #10-08

“CALL UPON WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ABIDE BY FEDERAL AND STATE HIGHWAY PLANNING PROCESSES AND REQUIREMENTS TO ENGAGE TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS”

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, 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 Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is not properly implementing statewide transportation planning statutory and regulatory requirements

pursuant to Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and is not in compliance with the planning process as defined under WSDOT Executive Order 1025.01; and

WHEREAS, the planning process for State Scenic and Recreational Highways has not adequately and openly addressed concerns related to the interests of affected Tribes; and

WHEREAS, Tribal government concerns over the State Scenic and Recreational Highways Plan have not been adequately addressed at staff level as described in the current WSDOT Centennial Accord Plan; and

WHEREAS, the WSDOT has not provided adequate opportunity for Tribal governments to participate in the statewide Scenic and Recreational Highways planning process; and

WHEREAS, Tribal governments with jurisdiction over land within the boundaries of the State have invested in natural resource protection, traveler amenities, and maintenance of roads within the Scenic and Recreational Highway system; and

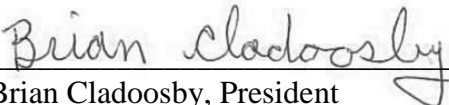
WHEREAS, Tribal governments with jurisdiction over land within the boundaries of the State and within, near, or adjacent to the Scenic and Recreational Highways System have cultural and economic interests to protect; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby insist that the WSDOT include all Tribal governments located within, near, or adjacent to the Scenic and Recreational Highways system as stakeholders in the planning process by, (1) establishing a Tribal Review Committee, (2) providing a reasonable timeline for adequate Tribal review and in-put, (3) reasonably consider Tribal input into the Plan, (4) addressing directly to the Tribes the reasons for not accepting proposed changes, and (5) including these reasons as part of the public record; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the WSDOT to respectfully abide by the policies and procedures recognized under state and federal laws when developing statewide plans to allow Tribes to properly address potential impacts on Tribal interests.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2010 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington, February 8 - 11, 2010 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary