



## **2010 Annual Conference Spokane, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #10 - 56**

#### **"PRIORITY FOR CONGRESS TO CREATE THE TRIBAL BROADBAND FUND AND FULLY FUND THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION'S OFFICE OF NATIVE AFFAIRS AND POLICY 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, Executive Orders, 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 to 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/Alaska Natives and tribes 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 the ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP), administered by the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service, and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Programs (BTOP) was established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

(Recovery Act) has failed to provide a meaningful assistance to help tribal and native communities; and

**WHEREAS**, access to broadband service in poorly served areas will help bridge the technological divide, increase economic growth, and improve education, health care and the quality of life in these areas; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal areas are the most underserved and un-served communities in America with regard to telecommunications services with a telephone penetration rate lower than 70% and a broadband penetration rate less than 10%; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government of the United States has a trust responsibility to tribal communities to ensure that they receive parity of infrastructure services with other American communities, and current market forces and governmental programs are not meeting the infrastructure needs of tribal communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Broadband Plan states that “Congress should consider additional annual funding for the FCC to expand the Indian Telecommunications Initiatives, Tribal workshops and roundtables to include sessions on education, technical support and assistance with broadband initiatives; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby strongly urge the FCC to preserve the underlying principles of support for high cost areas of providing vital infrastructure and broadband service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports that the National Broadband Plan must contain methods, resources, and specific priority for helping tribal and native communities attain connectivity and advanced technology in parity with non-tribal and non-native communities; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports that the FCC, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce and Congress must provide sufficient funding and technical assistance in a Tribal Broadband Fund and any Connect America Funds to help Indian nations attain broadband parity with non-native communities; and

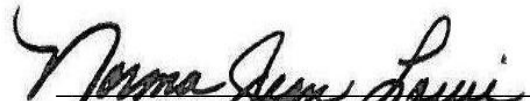
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI recommends that the FCC and Congress preserve and expand the Enhanced Tribal Lands Lifeline and Linkup Program for remote infrastructure and broadband service to low income consumers in Indian Country; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges Congress to allocate and increase the amount of funding for federal initiatives to assist tribal telecommunications service, including the Department of Agriculture’s Substantially Underserved Trust Area program; the Department of Commerce’s Broadband Opportunity Program, and the FCC’s Office of Native Affairs and Policy and its Indian Telecommunications Initiatives Program.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Northern Quest Resort and Casino in Spokane, Washington, September 20-23, 2010 with a quorum present.

  
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Brian Cladoosby, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary