



## 2010 Annual Conference Spokane, Washington

### RESOLUTION #10 - 63

#### **“SUPPORT FOR ENACTMENT OF THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT THROUGH S.881 AND H.R. 2099”**

#### **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**, in 1971, the United States Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to their traditional homelands by authorizing the establishment of Alaska Native Corporations to receive and manage lands and funds awarded in settlement of the claims of Alaska Natives; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of ANCSA was to settle the land claims of Alaska Natives and to provide them with a means to pursue economic development for the benefit of Alaska's Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the Alaska Native Corporations have become successful corporations promoting education, scholarships, cultural programs and dividends from operating profits to their shareholders; and are important economic engines, within their regions and throughout the State of Alaska, benefiting all of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska, Sealaska Corporation, is owned by 20,000 plus Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian tribal member shareholders; and

**WHEREAS**, Sealaska is one of the largest private employers in its region, providing up to 400 plus full and part-time jobs, and contributing \$40 million annually, to the Southeast Alaska economy through its logging contracts, road-building activities, and other timber-related activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Sealaska also provides a significant benefit to Alaska Natives throughout the State of Alaska through its annual ANCSA 7(i) revenue sharing contributions, totaling more than \$314 million since Sealaska began timber harvesting, its primary source of 7(i) revenue generation and sharing; and

**WHEREAS**, Sealaska was treated differently than the other Regional Corporations by having its land selections limited to areas within ANCSA withdrawal areas, drawn around some, but not all, of the Southeast Alaska villages, and many of these selections areas would not allow Sealaska to meet the economic and cultural purposes of ANCSA; and

**WHEREAS**, 39 years after ANCSA, Sealaska would like to finally complete its remaining ANCSA land entitlement conveyance through a comprehensive land entitlement and conservation proposal, which would allow it to complete its land entitlement by making cultural and economic land selections outside of the original withdrawal areas, as well as relinquish its selection rights in the original withdrawal areas; and

**WHEREAS**, this land entitlement legislation will ensure continued economic and cultural benefits to Sealaska shareholders and to the Southeast Alaska Region, as well as continued 7(i) revenue sharing contributions by Sealaska throughout the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, if Sealaska does not receive conveyance of all of the lands to which it is entitled in the near term, the primary economic natural resources activities of Sealaska will decrease significantly, which will negatively impact the Native people of Southeast Alaska, the Southeast Alaska economy, and the other Alaska Native Corporations throughout the State of Alaska that have come to rely upon Sealaska's 7(i) contributions; and


**WHEREAS**, this legislation will also allow Sealaska to secure Native ownership of many sacred and cultural sites in the Southeast Alaska region, to preserve and protect Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultural properties for current and future generations; now


**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby support the enactment by the United States Congress of a bill to complete Sealaska's ANCSA land entitlement in Southeast Alaska, which would allow Sealaska to continue to meet the economic needs of the Native people of Southeast Alaska and Alaska Native Corporations throughout the State; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

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

  
Brian Cladoosby, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary