



2011 Winter Conference North Bend, Oregon

RESOLUTION #11 - 10

“NATIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SELF-EMPOWERMENT”

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/Alaska Natives 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, Native communities have substandard connections with respect to both infrastructure and Broadband Service; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has lacked a resource and policy specifically targeted to help Native communities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government has a trust responsibility to help Native communities become self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS, the Communications Act requires the FCC to provide universal service and universal access to telecommunications service to all communities in America; and

WHEREAS, the FCC should apply extraordinary measures to assist Native communities to attain telecommunications service; now

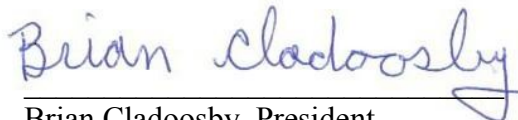
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge the FCC to undertake all necessary steps to support Native governments' efforts to become their own regulatory providers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the Federal Communications Commission for the first time to give empowerment leverage to consumers by permitting Native Governments to:


- A) redefine their communities as a single service area; and
- B) determine which provider, including the Tribe itself, shall receive the Universal Service support for serving the Native community.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2011 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at The Mill Casino Hotel & RV Park, North Bend, Oregon on January 30 – February 3, 2011 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary