



2011 Winter Conference North Bend, Oregon

RESOLUTION #11 - 12

“NATIVE BROADBAND FUND”

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 are the worst connected communities for both voice dialtone and broadband service; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government does not have a targeted or prioritized program for helping Native communities to get broadband or infrastructure connectivity; and

WHEREAS, there is a major regulatory reform that will alter and re-align support for small carriers and a greater uncertainty that broadband services will be affordable to Native residents; and

WHEREAS, Native communities may not attain essential support to attain parity of technology and service with non-Native and urban communities; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge the Federal Communications Commission, Congress, the Department of Agriculture and any additional federal agencies to support the National Tribal Telecommunications Association's proposed 10-title Native Broadband Fund to help native communities to:

- I. Attain vital technical and financial assistance to launch their own regulated services;
- II. Defray administrative and operational costs that may otherwise render broadband service unsustainable in Native communities;
- III. Help Native "underserved" and "unserved" communities to launch their own regulatory services;
- IV. Continue supporting current tribal teleco's efforts to serve their communities;
- V. charter a broadband Lifeline and Linkup fund to help Native subscribers attain and sustain broadband service;
- VI. Deploy Native public safety networks, fund 911 PSAP reconfiguration and resourcing, and E911 mapping;
- VII. Properly map Native communities for broadband coverage, inventory of infrastructure, and identify barriers—but under Native control and with governmental consultation;
- VIII. Connect key community public institutions;
- IX. Deploy Native mass media public information stations;
- X. Construct broadband mobility networks as safety-net networks for Native communities.

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

Brian Cladoosby, President

Norma Jean Louie

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary