



2011 Mid-Year Conference Worley, Idaho

RESOLUTION #11 - 35

"RESTORATION OF TRIBAL PAY COSTS IN FY 2012 IHS BUDGET"

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 President's FY2011 budget request for the Indian Health Service (IHS) included funding for federal and tribal pay costs in the amount of \$24.4 million; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY2012 budget request for the IHS includes a \$571.4 million increase over the FY 2010 level and is an increase of 14.1 percent; and

WHEREAS, the IHS Congressional Justification states that the President's FY2012 Budget request for IHS builds on and includes the FY2011 increase of \$354.1 million to maintain current services and to expand important programs as stated in the FY2012 IHS Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committee, p. CJ-2; and

WHEREAS, since the FY2012 President's budget for IHS builds on the FY2011 request it should retain all budget priorities established through the IHS tribal consultation and budget formulation process; and

WHEREAS, not including budget priorities established through the tribal consultation and budget formulation process is disingenuous to the budget formulation process and not respectful to the tribal consultation process and government-to-government relationship; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY2012 budget proposal for IHS does not include \$8.9 million for civilian pay nor does it include \$13.4 million for tribal pay costs (a total of \$22.3 million) despite the fact that federal and tribal pay cost increases were included in the FY2011 IHS budget request; and

WHEREAS, tribes recognize that the Administration has imposed a moratorium on federal pay cost increases, however employees in the tribal health system are not federal personnel and should not be subjected to this Administrative policy; and

WHEREAS, in most instances tribal employees are not compensated or receive the same level of fringe benefits as IHS federal personnel and rely on pay cost increases for their economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, if the Tribal health system does not maintain pay cost requirements it will be difficult to remain competitive to recruit and retain health care professionals; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge Congress and the IHS Director to restore completely the \$22.3 million included in the President's FY2011 budget for pay costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby recommend that Congress and the IHS Director restore at least \$13.4 million to cover mandatory costs associated with tribal pay cost increases; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge Congress and recommend that the IHS Director comply with Section 195 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (S. 1790) which directs the President to include in submission of the annual budget requests to Congress amounts that reflect the true cost of health care services, as indexed by the Consumer Price Index and population growth projections; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI recommends Congress and the IHS Director holds existing tribal health programs harmless from any costs associated with phasing in staff at

new facilities so that they may receive the full budget increase intended to fund inflation, population, and program increases.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2011 Mid-Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Coeur d'Alene Casino and Resort in Worley, Idaho, May 16-19, 2011 with a quorum present.



Brian Cladoosby, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary