



2011 Annual Conference Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #11 - 72

"SUPPORT FOR ITMA CONTINUED FUNDING BY DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR"

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, ATNI recognizes that for more than 20 years the Intertribal Monitoring Association (ITMA) has been an effective and useful tribal presence in monitoring the activities and Indian trust reform efforts of the United States; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has recently learned that the U.S. Department of the Interior has announced plans to cease providing grant funding to ITMA beginning with fiscal year 2012; and

WHEREAS, at the directive of tribal governments, ITMA has been instrumental in working with the United States Congress on legislative initiatives such as the enactment of the Indian Trust Funds Management Reform Act of 1994 and to the tolling of the statute of limitations which has resulted in several tribes achieving concurrence with the government on trust fund agreements of more than four-hundred million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior has benefited enormously from the improvement in trust management as suggested and assisted by ITMA and as a result of efforts to comply with court orders and the 1994 Indian Trust Funds Management Reform Act, the Department continues to work on additional improvements identified by ITMA as needing additional attention and review; and

WHEREAS, all these are additional aspects of trust administration and trust reform are subjects of long-standing and deep interest of the membership of ATNI; and

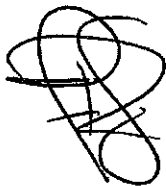
WHEREAS, ATNI like many other tribal organizations has come to rely heavily on ITMA for information, timely reporting, and suggestions for improving administration of the federal Indian trust, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATNI does hereby request in the strongest possible terms that the U.S. Department of the Interior immediately reconsider its recently announced decision not to provide operating grant funds to ITMA in fiscal year 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby very strongly recommends that Interior Secretary Salazar and Interior Department officials at all levels regard the continued operation and trust monitoring activities of ITMA as a valuable tool in Indian trust administration.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2011 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Tulalip Resort Casino in Tulalip, Washington, September 19-22, 2011 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary