



2011 Annual Conference Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #11 - 75

"SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED EXECUTIVE ORDER ON NATIVE LANGUAGES"

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 supports education efforts that increase the opportunity for Indian students, families, tribes, and communities to improve their lives economically, academically, socially, and culturally; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a federal trust responsibility to educate Native Americans through the provision of funding, programs, and other assistance; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has deemed the revitalization, preservation and perpetuation of Native languages and cultures a high priority; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has deemed the fostering of Native identity and the protection of ceremonial, spiritual beliefs and practices are vital components of tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, Native language use is in sharp decline and Native language loss has reached a crisis point in the northwest as well as throughout Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, stemming the tide of Native language loss is a shared responsibility by both Indian Nations and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Education Association formed a Native Language Work Group comprised of Native language revitalization stakeholders with the purpose to draft a proposed Executive Order on Native languages by

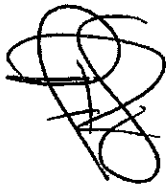
1. Declaring Native Languages in a State of Emergency,
2. Forming a Presidential Advisory board on Native Language revitalization ,
3. Creating a White House Office on Native languages,
4. Forming an Interagency Task Force on Native languages,
5. Hosting a White House Conference on Native Languages, and
6. Establishing a federal policy statement on Native languages; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLEVD that ATNI does hereby support the proposed Executive Order on Native Languages and urges President Obama to sign this Executive Order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ATNI does hereby declare Native Languages in a State of Emergency and urges its member tribes to advance strategies and best practices to revitalize and protect our Native languages.

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