2012 Mid-Year Convention
Lincoln City, Oregon

RESOLUTION #12 - 25

"SUPPORT $403 MILLION INCREASE FOR THE IHS FY 2013 BUDGET"

PREAMBLE

We the members of 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, 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 ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the President's request for the Indian Health Service (IHS) FY 2013 budget only includes a $115.9 million increase over last year's enacted level; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Portland Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) estimates that the President's request will fall short by over $287 million just to maintain current services and that it will take at least $403 million in FY 2013 to maintain the current levels of health care provided by the Indian health system, anything less will result in Indian health programs having to absorb the mandatory costs of inflation, population growth and increased administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the President's proposed budget to Congress does not provide any funding increases for inflationary costs except for the Contract Health Services (CHS) program with no additional funding requested for inflation, population growth or civilian and Tribal pay cost increase; and

WHEREAS, current services calculate mandatory costs increases necessary to maintain the current level of services and these mandatory costs are unavoidable and include medical and general inflation, pay costs, population growth and contract support cost which NPAIHB estimates to be $403 million in FY2013; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby support the NPAIHB recommendation that Congress support a budget increase of $403 million for the IHS budget in FY 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI recognizes a $403 million increase may seem unreasonable in the current fiscal environment however, given the significant health care needs of Indian people and such recommendation is realistic. ATNI also recognize that in this difficult budget environment, we must all make sacrifices for our Country, but as the historic record on Indians will demonstrate, no one has sacrificed more than Native Americans.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2012 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Chinook Winds Casino Resort, Lincoln City, Oregon, on May 21 – 24, 2012, with a quorum present.

Fawn Sharp, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary