2012 Mid-Year Convention
Lincoln City, Oregon

RESOLUTION #12 - 32

"TRIBAL TRANSIT PROGRAM"

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 the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, all ATNI Tribes receive transportation funds for roads and transit through the Federal Transportation Act (the Act) to be reauthorized in upcoming sessions of Congress; and

WHEREAS, historically the Act determined how funds are distributed to Tribes by grants and entitlement formulas for a period of six (6) years; and

WHEREAS, the current Indian Country definition does not include communities of restored tribes without reservations that gave up their individual allotments and tribal trust lands; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 Transportation Act approved by the U.S. Senate has provisions for funding transit that effectively precludes some Tribes from 25% of the eligible funds by only giving credit for serving a minimum of 1,000 low income individuals on "an Indian Tribe's Lands" (Tribal Trust Land); and

WHEREAS, many ANTI Tribes are regional service providers and are required by all funding sources to provide transit services to the low income public regardless of land status; and

WHEREAS, some northwest tribes have a "checker board" ownership pattern within their reservation and a small population residing on relatively small amounts of tribal trust land that will meet the threshold to get credit for serving low income populations; and

WHEREAS, defining an "Indian Tribe's Lands" broadly to include allotments and individual Indian fee land, this provision of the Act contradicts and is an unfunded mandate to Tribal governments obligation to serve the public and all lands regardless of ownership; and

WHEREAS, many tribes with aggressive economic development programs depend on transit serving non-Indian people and communities to meet workforce demands; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby request northwest Congressional Representatives to amend the 2012 Senate version of the Transportation Reauthorization Act and any future reauthorizations to replace references to "Tribal Lands and Indian Tribe's Lands" with "transit service area" when developing formulas for distributing Tribal Transit Funds.

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