



## **2012 Annual Convention Pendleton, Oregon**

### **RESOLUTION #12 - 44**

#### **“REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT”**

#### **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 Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-394, H.R. 4766) expires in FY 2012 and must be

reauthorized and fully funded as an investment in cultural and language preservation;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Act is to preserve and increase fluency in Native American languages, as Native American languages are in rapid decline and are not spoken anywhere else in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, preserving native languages is integral to preserving indigenous knowledge based on thousands of years of observation and application of natural laws and is essential to addressing challenges facing our country and global community today;  
and

**WHEREAS**, linguists estimate that, at the current rate of decline, there may be only 20 Native American languages remaining by the year 2050 and if they are not preserved, they will disappear forever; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act amends the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to allow the Administration for Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to award grants to support and strengthen Native American language immersion programs, including language nests, language survival schools, and language restoration programs; and

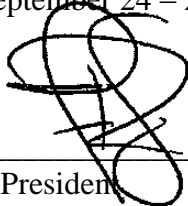
**WHEREAS**, in addition to creating fluency, Native language immersion programs have been shown to promote higher academic success for students who participate in Native language immersion programs compared to their Native peers who do not participate in these programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs recently held a mark-up on the Native American Language Preservation Act which was favorably acted upon in support of Native American Languages; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby urge the U.S. Congress to reauthorize and fund the Native American Languages Preservation Act as an investment in the Cultural and Language Revitalization goals of the Northwest tribes.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2012 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Wildhorse Resort and Casino, Pendleton, Oregon on September 24 – 27, 2012 with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary