2012 Annual Convention
Pendleton, Oregon

RESOLUTION #12-45

"URGE THE U.S. CONGRESS TO PREVENT SEQUESTRATION AND THE $100 MILLION CUT TO IMPACT AID"

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, Impact Aid is the oldest elementary and secondary federal education program administered by the U.S. Department of Education and is designed to reimburse local educational agencies for the loss of traditional revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt property or Federal activity; and

WHEREAS, Impact Aid payments are allocated directly to local educational agencies for military bases, Indian lands, low-rent housing, and other federal property in lieu of local tax dollars to assist with the basic educational needs of the thousands of students served by those local educational agencies; and

WHEREAS, existing property owners in affected local agencies already bear a significant burden in financial support of local educational agencies due to federal acquisition of private lands; and

WHEREAS, Impact Aid funding is of critical importance in providing quality educational opportunities for the local educational agencies which apply for and receive Impact Aid in support of the 57 tribes of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians federally connected Native students educated in these schools; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act of 2011 established sequestration to cut $1.2 trillion from the federal budget due to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction's failure to reach a broader compromise; and

WHEREAS, Impact Aid, as the only current-year funded education program, will be cut immediately on January 2, 2013, by $100 million in the middle of the 2012-2013 school year; and

WHEREAS, all other federal education programs, including Title I and the Individual Disability Education Act, will also see a reduction in funding of between 8-9% starting in the 2013-2014 school year; and

WHEREAS, it is the federal government's obligation to rectify the negative financial impact its presence has caused; now

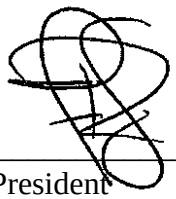
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATNI strongly opposes sequestration as created by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and its negative affect on the Impact Aid Program and other federal programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI advocates for the continuation of funding for this federal obligation to alleviate the local taxpayer burden caused by federal land ownership as has been the standard for more than sixty years; and

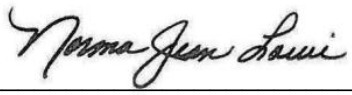
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, requests the US Congress recognize the importance of the Impact Aid Program in ensuring that federally connected children receive a high-quality public education by fully funding the Impact Aid Program.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2012 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Wild Horse Resort in Pendleton, Oregon on September 24-27, 2012 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary