# 2012 Annual Convention
# Pendleton, Oregon

## RESOLUTION #12 - 49

## "RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ELENA BASSETT'S SERVICE TO INDIAN HOUSING"

## 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 Northwest Indian Housing Association (NWIHA) represents thirty-eight Indian Housing Authorities and Tribally Designated Housing Entities in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and Annette Island, Alaska; and

**WHEREAS,** the Mission of NWIHA is to promote safe, sanitary, decent and affordable housing for Tribal members in the Pacific Northwest, which it accomplishes by providing

training and education opportunities; providing a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues; advocating for the collective benefit of all members; effectively linking members to information and financial resources; and working collaboratively with its industry partners; and

**WHEREAS,** Elena L. Bassett, as an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation, has enjoyed a long-term career in advocating for Native American housing, most recently serving as the Executive Director of the Colville Indian Housing Authority (CIHA), Vice Chair of the Northwest Indian Housing Association, a voting member of the National American Indian Housing Council - which represents 463 tribes and housing organizations, and as the Liaison for NWIHA to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

**WHEREAS,** Elena L. Bassett was innovative in packaging financing mechanisms for affordable housing in Indian Country and encouraged greater self-sufficiency among all tribal members; in true leadership fashion, she accepted the challenge, knowing that financing in Indian country is a complicated undertaking and process, compounded by the great distance most reservations are from cities and industrial centers, plus local labor, materials and supplies are difficult to find and more expensive; and

**WHEREAS,** Elena L. Bassett is known among her colleagues as a tireless and caring advocate for Tribal members and has become a knowledgeable resource of financing mechanisms, such as the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, which has been used to improve the lives of tribal members across the state and region; known as a tough negotiator, she will settle for nothing less than excellence in securing support for affordable housing; she has organized conferences and seminars to educate her fellow tribal members on the variety of affordable housing options available; and

**WHEREAS,** Elena L. Bassett has created 45 tax credit units in two projects, in addition to rehabilitating and maintaining the other rental and homeownership units managed by CIHA – a reservation spread over 1.4 million acres, located about two hours north and west of Spokane; and

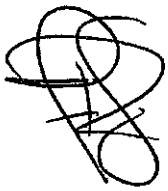
**WHEREAS,** Elena L. Bassett innovatively assembled funding from a wide variety of sources including, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, the Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program, and CIHA's annual allocation of NAHASDA funding to build 27 homes in the Inchelium Community; and notably, all of these homes are energy efficient and include passive solar heating, Energy Star construction certification and appliances, and water-conserving fixtures – earning accolades from her peers and colleagues; and

**WHEREAS,** Elena L. Bassett has announced her retirement later this year, having battled serious health issues; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that ATNI joins with the Northwest Indian Housing Association in honoring and recognizing the lifetime contributions of Elena L. Bassett to improving and strengthening housing for Tribal members in Indian country.

## 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.



Fawn Sharp, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary