2012 Annual Convention
Pendleton, Oregon

RESOLUTION #12 - 55

"“REQUESTING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONSULT WITH TRIBES REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF A NEW ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION (BPA)”

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 ATNI is specifically committed to the protection, restoration, and enhancement of tribal First Foods—water, fish, wildlife and plants—for the perpetual cultural, economic, and sovereign benefit of Northwest native people; and

WHEREAS, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is vitally responsible for the protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources affected by the development, operations, and management of the Federal Columbia River Power System; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator of BPA provides crucial leadership and direction for the fulfillment of BPA's enormous set of responsibilities – paramount of which is its fiduciary trust obligation to the Columbia Basin tribes; and

WHEREAS, the current BPA Administrator Steve Wright will retire at the end of January 2013 after leading the agency since November 2000, the second longest serving BPA Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Energy has the authority to select, authorize and appoint the BPA Administrator; and

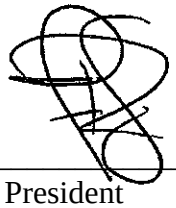
WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy will have a competitive process conducted under the federal civil service rules to select a new BPA Administrator, and Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman will be the selecting official; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby request that the U.S. Department of Energy take necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that the BPA fiduciary trust responsibility to the region's tribes that Mr. Wright has enhanced during his tenure as BPA Administrator continues to improve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that the U.S. Department of Energy consult with the Columbia Basin tribes to be involved with the selection of a new BPA Administrator.

CERTIFICATION

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



Fawn Sharp, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary