2012 Annual Convention
Pendleton, Oregon

Resolution #12 - 62

"RECOMMENDATION OF TRUST ASSET REFORM LEGISLATION"

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 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 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, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a special relationship with Indian Tribal Nations which includes the responsibilities and duties of a trustee on behalf of the lands, natural resources, and other trust assets of those Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the United States has failed to fulfill its trust responsibilities in the management of tribal trust assets; and

WHEREAS, Indian Tribal Nations, as inherent sovereigns and stewards of natural resources, lands and other assets for many generations, are in a unique position to design, recommend and implement plans for the management of the trust assets within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI Trust Reform Committee has drafted and recommended Congressional enactment of the attached Trust Asset Reform Act of 2012, which would reaffirm the historic basis and legal scope of the federal trust responsibility and enable each Indian Tribal Nation to design and implement a plan for the management of the trust assets within its jurisdiction without reducing the trust responsibility of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Trust Asset Reform Act of 2012 would also dissolve the Office of the Special Trustee and create an Under Secretary for Indian Affairs to supervise the activities of Department of the Interior agencies conducting activities involving Indian trust assets; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby recommends Congressional enactment of the attached Trust Asset Reform Act of 2012, and authorizes and directs ATNI staff and officers to solicit Congressional sponsors of the Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby petitions the National Indian Trust Commission to support Congressional enactment of the Trust Asset Reform Act of 2012.

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