



2012 Annual Convention Pendleton, Oregon

RESOLUTION #12 - 64

“SUPPORT FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER PROHIBITING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FROM ADVOCATING REDUCTION OF TRUST RESPONSIBILITY”

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, President Barack Obama has strongly supported the upholding of the United States' trust responsibility to Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, a disturbing trend is apparent in actions of employees of the Interior Department who advocate reduction or limitation of trust responsibilities such as placing a five-year limit on the time during which tribal funds may be held in trust; and

WHEREAS, employees of the Department of Justice have advocated positions in court that would improperly limit or terminate the United States' trust obligations concerning federal management of tribal trust funds and resources; and

WHEREAS, employees of the Interior Department have drafted and advocated legislation which would terminate the United States' trust obligation pertaining to protections of tribal trust resources and senior tribal water rights; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI opposes the action of federal employees to limit or abolish federal trust responsibilities to protect tribal funds and natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby petitions President Barack Obama to issue an Executive Order barring federal employees from proposing or advocating reductions of the United States' existing trust responsibilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby petitions relevant Congressional committees to exercise their oversight authority to help ensure that the Executive Branch brings the same honor to fulfilling and defending its trust responsibilities that the United States had when these commitments were first made so many years ago as the foundation of the federal-tribal government-to-government relationship.

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