



2013 Winter Convention Grand Mound, WA

RESOLUTION #13 - 17

“URGE THE WHITE HOUSE TO HOST A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION”

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, in response to tribal input through Consultation, Roundtables, and the annual Tribal Nations Summit, the White House has acknowledged that Indian Country has identified Native language revitalization as a high priority; and

WHEREAS, at the 2012 White House Tribal Nations Summit the Obama Administration rolled out an unprecedented Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Education (DOE), Department of Interior (DOI) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to coordinate Native language preservation and revitalization activities; and

WHEREAS, the National Alliance to Save Native Languages and the National Indian Education Association through a Native Language Work Group have recommended to the Obama Administration a White House Initiative on Native Languages; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is encouraged by the White House heightening its engagement on Native language revitalization and also views the White House support for Native language revitalization as a fulfillment of candidate Obama's Native American campaign platform of 2008 and 2012, as well as the Democrat National Committee Native American platform; and

WHEREAS, ATNI believes the necessary statutes exist for the White House to launch a meaningful commitment to Language Immersion as a medium of instruction in Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Schools without further Congressional authorization; and

WHEREAS, any effort administratively without a commitment to invest in Native language revitalization particularly through BIE, Office of Indian Education and Administration for Native Americans (ANA) entities is an effort that will fall short of administration and Indian Country goals of purposeful intervention in stemming the tide of Native language loss; and

WHEREAS, the signed MOU calls for a "Summit" on Native Language Preservation and ATNI further supports broadening the "Summit" into an official "White House Conference on Native Language Revitalization;" and

WHEREAS, the proposed White House Conference on Native Languages would demonstrate the fierce urgency of Native language recovery and a commitment from the White House to protect Native languages as national treasures; and

WHEREAS, a profound need exists to promote private foundation support for Native language revitalization efforts and facilitate relationships between private funding entities and tribal communities engaged in the crucial work of revitalizing their languages; and

WHEREAS, a need exists for leaders and practitioners of Native language revitalization efforts to acquire the expertise in identifying federal resources including language materials, repository building, research, best practices, and operations investment from federal agencies; now

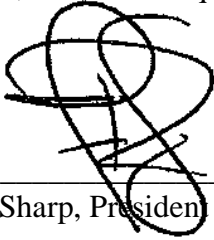
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge the White House to host a White House Conference on Native Language Revitalization to highlight the critical need and maximize the intent of the Memorandum of Understanding between the DOE, DOI, and DHHS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI requests that President Obama include an elevation of funding for the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Act ANA programs in his FY 2014 budget, as well as fully funding DOI Bureau of Indian Education and DOE Office of Indian Education programs; and

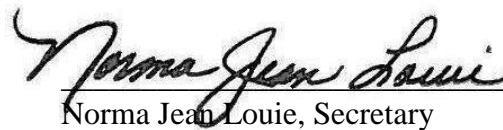
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI does recommend White House support for provisions in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization that promotes Language Immersion in BIE, Public, Private and tribally chartered schools.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington, on January 28 – 31, 2013 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary