



2013 Mid-Year Convention Airway Heights, Washington

RESOLUTION #13 – 36

"EXEMPTING TRIBES FROM THE FEDERAL FUNDING SEQUESTRATION"

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 federal sequestration of appropriations creates a chain reaction of service disruption or elimination that disproportionately impacts tribal families' access to already depleted health and education programs, loss of critically important public safety personnel, reduced job opportunities, challenge to tribal energy and economic development, and threatens the protection of tribal and treaty-reserved natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the federal sequestration of appropriations results in federal employee furloughs who are directly tasked with services that support and collaborate with Indian country, which is not in keeping with the trust responsibility with tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) is a federal agency solely funded by Indian gaming revenues generated by Indian tribes for the purpose of administering the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1998, and should not be subjected to the Budget Control Act of 2011; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration have protected certain programs deemed critical or provided agency discretion to apply cuts, yet have ignored the pleas from Indian country about the dire nature of the sequestration impacts, such as the letter from the November 27, 2012 National Congress of American Indians, and direct communications from federally-recognized tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a political relationship with tribal nations recognized in the U.S. Constitution and secured through numerous federal laws as domestic dependent nations; and

WHEREAS, in return for tribes ceding lands and resources to the United States that establish the territorial foundation of the nation, the federal government has a fiduciary trust obligation to tribal nations and this obligation is not discretionary; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby declare that all of Indian country appropriations, and tribal fee based funding, will be held as non-discretionary and protected from any sequestration based on the Budget Control Act of 2011, and including NIGC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, and that Congress and the Administration should immediately exempt all tribal programs, and federal employees that serve Indian country, from the current sequestration and any future sequestration of appropriations;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that any sequestration as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011 for tribally based fees be proportionally returned to the tribes that pay those fees.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the Northern Quest Casino, held at the Airway Heights WA, May 16, 2013 with a quorum present.

Fawn Sharp, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary