



## **2013 Mid-Year Convention Airway Heights, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #13 - 45**

#### **“PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRIBES OPPOSE THE PEBBLE MINE OPEN-PIT MINING OPERATIONS IN SALMON SPAWNING HABITAT”**

#### **PREAMBLE**

We the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) 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 tribes of 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**, promotion of the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity of native people, and preservation of their cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bristol Bay watershed produces the largest run of sockeye salmon in the world and is the last pristine environment for producing all species of Pacific wild salmon; and

**WHEREAS**, the indigenous people of Bristol Bay have cultural ties to the land and subsistence activities and access to those resources are deemed the highest priority use of resources in the Bristol Bay region; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial fishing has historically provided a sustainable economy in the Bristol Bay region and the State of Alaska for the last 130 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pebble Mine Project represents potential catastrophic risks to our Native way of life including the cultural, ecological, subsistence and economic use of resources in Bristol Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, resolutions in opposition to the Pebble Mine project have been passed by the Bristol Bay Native Corporation and the Bristol Bay Native Association and more than 80 percent of Bristol Bay residents and shareholders are opposed to the Pebble Mine; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Native Tribes requested that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) protect Bristol Bay and its natural and cultural resources from large-scale hard rock mining, including the Pebble Mine; and

**WHEREAS**, the EPA has found in its Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment that mining the Pebble deposit will destroy up to 90 miles of salmon streams and up to 4,800 acres of salmon wetland habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many additional and unacceptable risks identified by EPA and others that will create adverse effects for the fish, water, people and industry of Bristol Bay; and


**WHEREAS**, ATNI represents 57 tribes in seven states, stands with our Alaska Native brethren in support of their proud cultural heritage, subsistence traditions and way of life; now


**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI opposes development of the Pebble Mine or other inappropriately large hard-rock mining projects in Bristol Bay; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports the EPA's Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment and process, and directs the Obama Administration to protect and conserve Bristol Bay's fish, water, people and an economy that is based on sustainable natural resources.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort Casino, Airway Heights, Washington on May 13-16, 2013 with a quorum present.

  
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Fawn Sharp, President

  
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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary