



2013 Mid-Year Convention Airway Heights, Washington

RESOLUTION #13 - 46

“PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRIBES TO ADOPT GUIDANCE PRINCIPLES AND TO EXPLORE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE”

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, Pacific Northwest Tribes are place-based people and we recognize that climate change is one of the most critical sustainability issues we face that can destroy a way of life that has sustained us for thousands of years; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the ATNI commits to the development of guiding principles and exploration of the possibility of creating a unified mechanism to incorporate the principles into an action plan to address the impacts of climate change that will protect our treaty, inherent and indigenous rights, including those contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Declaration), our health and the health of the environment, economies, and way of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, that in the action plan, ATNI shall include an evaluation to assess the effectiveness of Executive Order 13175 and Secretarial Order 3289, as informed by the United Nation Declaration of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), regarding climate adaptation perspectives and the needs of tribes, that will guide the Administration, Congress and federal agencies; and ATNI calls on the federal government to implement the orders in a manner that fulfills the federal government's trust responsibilities to Tribes, and to provide climate adaptation funding and capacity support to tribes to the fullest extent as directed by the orders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because tribes are the only residents of federal lands, ATNI calls upon the federal government to fund tribes to address the impacts of climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon the federal government to recognize our traditional ecological knowledge and to commit to consulting with tribal governments for guidance on all climate change policies as required by Executive Order 13175 and Secretarial Order 3289; and

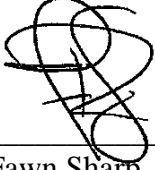
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI commits to the development of a Climate Change Task Force of staff and leadership under the Natural Resource Committee to develop the guiding principles and to explore the development of a unified mechanism to incorporate the principles into an action plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports collaboration among the aforementioned Climate Change Taskforce and other tribal organizations, tribes and non-tribal partners, such as Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), Upper Snake River Tribes (USRT), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USERT), National Wildlife Federation (NWF), and Native American Rights Fund (NARF), to explore and implement the actions described above; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI, which has been among the leaders in the nation on the protection of its way of life for over 60 years, with this resolution reaffirms its sacred responsibility to protect its resources and way of life for generations to come.

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.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary