



2013 Annual Convention Worley, ID

RESOLUTION #13 - 64

“SUPPORT OF INTER-TRIBAL TRADE LEGISLATION”

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, each of the Tribes of ATNI has the same responsibility to provide for the aforementioned needs of their citizens, as does every other unit of local government in the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, fulfilling these responsibilities requires tribal governmental income; and

WHEREAS, because historical events have left the Tribes of ATNI with no real tax base from which to generate the income needed to fulfill these obligations, and federal assistance in these areas has never been even close to adequate to address these obligations, the Tribes of ATNI are, and have always been, seeking ways to diversify and improve our local economies; and

WHEREAS, because recent federal budget cuts have increased the demand on our tribal services and increased the gap between our actual tribal needs and tribal income, and we have little reason to believe that this situation is going to improve significantly in the near future, it has become even more critical for the ATNI Tribes to focus increased attention on their economic development efforts; and

WHEREAS, many ATNI member Tribes, and other Tribes throughout the United States, have natural resources and tribal and individual Indian produced products which could be used to revitalize their struggling economies, but they lack an effective system to market these items because: (1) the Tribes lack the volume of product necessary to compete effectively in the national and international markets; (2) the Tribes have been unable to generate the capital necessary to expand their production; and (3) the States and local governments have imposed, or have attempted to impose, state taxes and regulatory structures which raise the cost of tribal products to a level which makes it impossible for the Tribes to compete with large retail sellers; and

WHEREAS, history shows us that all of the ATNI Tribes once had strong vibrant tribal economics which were based, in large part, upon a system of inter-tribal trade; and

WHEREAS, under these inter-tribal trade networks, our tribes harvested and produced a sizable number of products that were traded in extensive networks across hundreds of miles before they eventually made their way into the non-Indian stream of commerce; and

WHEREAS, history also shows us that these inter-tribal trade networks were of great benefit to the surrounding non-Indian economies, and in fact many of the first non-Indian economies in the United States and Canada were centered around, or directly dependent upon, these inter-tribal systems; and

WHEREAS, ATNI has regularly endorsed inter-tribal trade efforts because it has determined that the re-creation of these inter-tribal trade networks will lead to: increased Indian and non-Indian employment both on and off our tribal lands, the creation and expansion of other Indian and non-Indian owned businesses to support this new development, the expansion of U.S. exports, and a decreased tribal dependency on the federal government for tribes across the United States, all at no cost to the federal government; and

WHEREAS, these are all goals which are shared by all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT), which has within its membership a number of Tribes who are also members of ATNI, has prepared draft legislation which is critical to the success of this effort; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby endorse COLT's Inter-Tribal Trade Act of 2013 legislation as drafted, or as the same may be amended in the future *with* the approval of the ATNI Tribes and calls upon all of the members of the Congress to sponsor, co-sponsor and work to insure the immediate passage of this important piece of legislation; and

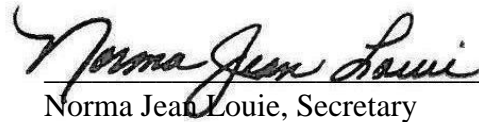
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI specifically calls upon Senator Maria Cantwell, the Chairperson of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee to immediately introduce and take the steps necessary to advance this legislation.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Coeur d'Alene Resort Hotel & Casino, Worley, Idaho on September 16 - 19, 2013 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary