



2014 Winter Convention Ferndale, WA

RESOLUTION #14 - 04

“FUNDING RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS FOR EDUCATION THROUGH THE SUPREME COURT DECISION ON MCCLEARY ET AL. V. WASHINGTON STATE”

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, students living in rural areas, especially those on tribal reservations, are commonly unserved or underserved by telecommunications carriers in regards to broadband service availability, subjecting these students to significant disadvantages as compared to students in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the undisputed impact of broadband on learning, through enhanced and immersive educational experiences, result in exponential success at all ages and affect both students and teachers alike; and

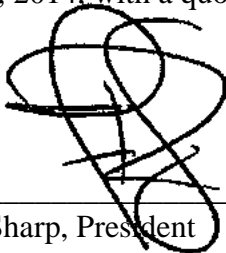
WHEREAS, there is an imminent transition to online-based mandatory testing for K-12 in addition to GED programs, both of which are significant in tribal communities, notwithstanding the continued migration toward curriculum that requires online access at both school and home; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI and its Member Tribes hereby request that “basic education” be redefined to include robust and redundant broadband infrastructure for schools in addition to an emphasis on equal access for students and teachers in rural areas; including explicit language to prioritize efforts on Indian Reservations, tribal schools and Indian education programs as well as schools which serve a significant tribal population; and

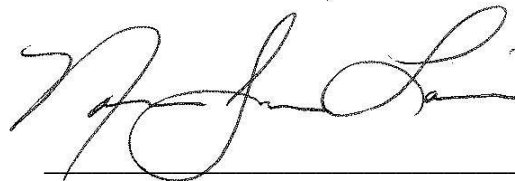
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby supports expenditures by the State of Washington regarding basic education for Kindergarten-12 grade should be credited by the Washington State Supreme Court case decision for *McCleary, et al. v. Washington State*; where “measurable” was specifically stated in achieving fully funded basic education, to which broadband access and speed can be quantitatively measured and as such should be used as a key performance indicator.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2014 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Silver Reef Hotel Casino Spa, Ferndale, WA on February 17 - 20, 2014, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary