



2014 Winter Convention Ferndale, WA

RESOLUTION #14 - 16

“MODERNIZING THE U.S. – CANADA COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY”

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 negotiation and implementation of the Columbia River Treaty between the United States and Canada was completed without the prior and informed consent of the Columbia Basin tribes and First Nations, did not include ecosystem considerations, has resulted in substantial direct effects on the management authorities and responsibilities of the Columbia Basin tribes, and devastated cultural and natural resources upon which they depend; and

WHEREAS, regional sovereigns and stakeholders reached agreement that the Columbia River Treaty should be modernized to include management for a healthy and resilient ecosystem throughout the Columbia River Basin as a third primary purpose of the Treaty, equal to

hydropower and flood risk management, which was also included in the U.S. Entity's Regional Recommendation Concerning the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024 as submitted to the U.S. Department of State; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Regional Recommendation is dependent upon conducting a regional flood risk management review that enhances spring and summer flows with river and reservoir management that benefits tribal cultural resources including First Foods while providing adequate flood risk protection, and is also dependent upon pursuing the restoration of fish passage and the reintroduction of anadromous fish to Canadian spawning grounds; and

WHEREAS, through the Constitution, treaties, statutes, executive orders and judicial decisions, the United States has a unique legal and political relationship with the Columbia Basin tribes and the President has charged the U.S. Department of State to engage in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have tribal implications in recognition of this relationship; now

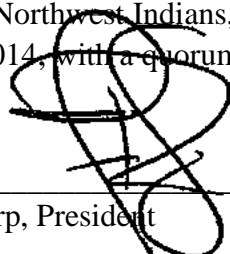
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that as a matter of great importance to the 57 member tribes of ATNI, U.S. Department of State should recommend to the President of the United States that the Columbia River Treaty must be modernized to integrate ecosystem function as a third primary purpose, consistent with the trust and fiduciary obligations the United States owes to the tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge all federal agencies to consult and collaborate with the Columbia Basin tribes during the Interagency Policy Committee's review of the U.S. Entity's Regional Recommendation Concerning the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024; and

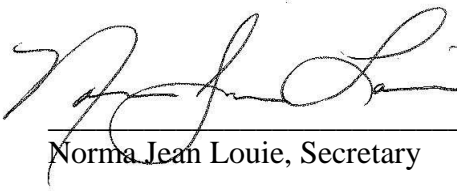
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to immediately initiate a regional flood risk management review that enhances spring and summer flows with river and reservoir management that benefits tribal cultural resources, including First Foods while providing adequate flood risk protection, and urges all federal agencies to work with the Columbia Basin tribes to investigate and implement a program to restore fish passage and reintroduce anadromous fish to Canadian spawning grounds, including any authorization required to complete these actions.

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