



## **2014 Mid-Year Convention Grand Mound, WA**

### **RESOLUTION #14 - 33**

#### **“SUPPORTING THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF THE AHTNA FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES TO CO-MANAGE WILDLIFE THROUGHOUT THEIR TRADITIONAL HUNTING TERRITORY”**

#### **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**, Ahtna, Incorporated is one of 13 Alaska Native Regional Corporations established by Congress under terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971; and

**WHEREAS**, Ahtna, Inc., owns in fee title, approximately 1,528,000 acres conveyed in December 1998 from an entitlement of 1,770,000 acres; and

**WHEREAS**, seven of the eight villages within the Ahtna Region are merged with Ahtna, Inc., and all eight are Federally Recognized Tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, a thirteen-member board directs Ahtna Inc. corporate operations and Ahtna, Inc. has more than 1,800 shareholders, many of whom still reside in their traditional homeland of the Cantwell and Copper River regions; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI understands and fully appreciates the unique relationship between the eight federally recognized tribes and the ANCSA Regional Corporation; and understands the cultural, economic and nutritional hardships suffered by the Native Village of Cantwell, Native Village of Cheesh' Na, Native Village of Gakona, Native Village of Gulkana, Native Village of Kluti-Kaah, Native Village of Mentasta, Native Village of Tazlina, Native Village of Chitina (the Ahtna Tribes of Alaska), because of the legal and practical issues preventing them from managing and practicing their customary and traditional hunting way of life and having access to their traditional areas and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI recognizes that subsistence hunting is vital to the preservation of the customary and traditional hunting way of life of the Ahtna people; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI supports the right and necessity of the Native Village of Cantwell, Native Village of Cheesh' Na, Native Village of Gakona, Native Village of Gulkana, Native Village of Kluti-Kaah, Native Village of Mentasta, Native Village of Tazlina, and Native Village of Chitina to be fully engaged in the management of the wildlife populations that they depend upon, including the right to exclusively manage wildlife on lands that were part of their lands claims settlement, and a central co-management role for developing wildlife management plans on the state and federal lands within Ahtna's traditional use area; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is aware that the Native Village of Cantwell, Native Village of Cheesh' Na, Native Village of Gakona, Native Village of Gulkana, Native Village of Kluti-Kaah, Native Village of Mentasta, Native Village of Tazlina, Native Village of Chitina, Ahtna regional and village ANCSA corporations are united in supporting the concepts for tribal management and co-management expressed in draft legislation sponsored by Congressman Don Young which was the subject of a recent hearing in the House Sub-Committee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, and that the Alaska Native Community is united in its strong support for Ahtna's legislative effort as expressed through numerous resolutions adopted by the Alaska Federation of Natives and many other Alaska Native organizations; now

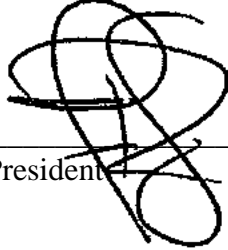
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI and its member tribes hereby express full support for federal legislation that empowers the self-determination of the Ahtna people and

protects their customary and traditional hunting way of life, by authorizing the Ahtna eight federally recognized tribes: 1) to exclusively manage wildlife on lands owned by Ahtna, held in restricted status by the United States for Ahtna tribal members and the Native Village of Cantwell, Native Village of Cheesh' Na, Native Village of Gakona, Native Village of Gulkana, Native Village of Kluti-Kaah, Native Village of Mentasta, Native Village of Tazlina, and Native Village of Chitina; and 2) to enter into a co-management with federal and state agencies to develop wildlife management plans for all lands within Ahtna's traditional use area; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution applies to Indian land within the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2014 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington, on May 5 – 8, 2014 with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary