



2014 Annual Convention Mission, Oregon

RESOLUTION #14 – 55

“URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SAFEGUARD TRIBAL FIRST FOODS”

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 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 opportunities of native people and preservation of their cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives since time immemorial have relied on our traditional foods to sustain us; they are a part of our history, culture and traditions; they are the basis for our way of life throughout the United States; and we are obligated to care for and protect them now and for the next seven generations and beyond; and

WHEREAS, in the interior Columbia Basin of the Pacific Northwest, some of the tribes are now calling these traditional foods the First Foods, which in some areas include water, fish, big game, plants, roots, and berries; it is recognized that other areas have different, unique First Foods that are based on their history, culture and traditions; and

WHEREAS, the First Foods are both natural and cultural resources, and are critical to tribal history and today's life, culture and tradition that include teaching and learning, harvest, preparation, consumption, tribal celebrations, sharing, and economics; and

WHEREAS, tribal people are more profoundly affected by the loss of or damage to the First Foods because of their crucial importance, the fundamental position they have always held in our lives, and our greater reliance on them than the average non-indigenous population invasive species; and

WHEREAS, a clean, healthy environment (land, air and water) with intact, fully-functioning ecological and physical processes is essential to support and maintain First Foods, but it has often been—and continues to be—damaged and degraded by human activities; and

WHEREAS, ongoing threats to the First Foods often result from Federal and State agencies' failure to recognize our First Foods through poorly-planned and/or executed water project development, withdrawals and management actions; State and Federal fish and wildlife management actions and decisions; hydropower development, operations and licensing; other energy generation and transmission; discharges of toxics and other pollutants to water, land and air; agricultural, forestry and other land management practices; urban and industrial development; and Climate Change and ocean alterations; and

WHEREAS, many tribes have treaties or have Executive Orders with the United States that guarantee availability of our First Foods, the Federal Government has a Trust Responsibility to safeguard tribal trust assets, and tribal members suffer disparate, disproportionate impacts from harm to the First Foods contrary to the principles of Environmental Justice; and

WHEREAS, Federal agencies have individual missions and responsibilities that overlap with our First Foods mission, thereby creating explicit opportunities for inter-governmental collaboration, partnerships and progress to our mutual benefit; and

WHEREAS, in taking care of our First Foods we are taking care of our land, air and water for the next seven generations and beyond, as taught by our elders, which will not only benefit our people but all those who live in the United States; now

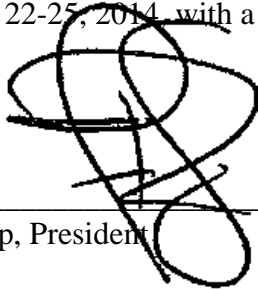
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI encourages the United States government, and all its constituent agencies, to embrace and support the shared mission to protect, enhance, restore and assure tribal access to the First Foods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI encourages the Federal Government to assess, evaluate and, if appropriate, revise its plans, actions and activities (including those

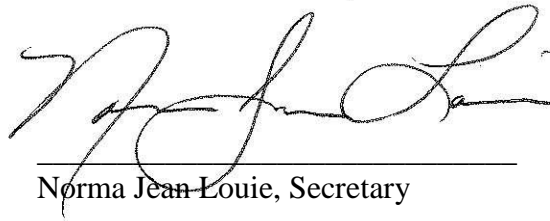
involving an oversight role with the States) so as to consider, promote and maximize consistency with the mission to safeguard tribal First Foods.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2014 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino, Mission, Oregon, on September 22-25, 2014, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary