



2014 Fall Trust Reform Meeting Worley, Idaho

RESOLUTION #14-66

“DECLARATION OF REGIONAL STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO FEDERAL UNDERFUNDING OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES”

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 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 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a long standing, well established legal trust obligation to federally recognized tribes and their individual members, memorialized through numerous federal treaties, executive orders, statutes, regulations and policies; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies have improperly advocated reductions in the levels of trust obligations the United States owes the tribes and the United States has increasingly underfunded essential government services to Indians; and

WHEREAS, due to insufficient funding and services by federal agencies, Native communities have suffered severe social, economic, and environmental harms at a rate far in excess of other communities, including inequitable incidence of disease, unemployment, suicide, substance abuse, domestic abuse, violence, flooding, and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, as a further consequence of federal actions and inactions, Indian tribes across the Northwest have been forced to spend large amounts of scarce tribal funds to support the services that should have been provided or paid for by the United States; and

WHEREAS, many Indian tribes have been compelled to sue the United States for trust mismanagement and underfunding; and

WHEREAS, despite favorable court decisions and settlements for the tribes, the United States has failed to implement changes necessary to correct the systemic funding shortfalls and administrative failures, effectively setting the stage for future claims by tribes; and

WHEREAS, the current systemic underfunding of essential services by the United States is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a declaration of a regional state of emergency and further action to reverse these trends; now

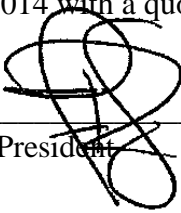
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians hereby declare a regional state of emergency for all Indian tribes that are members of ATNI and their associated territories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby calls on President Barack Obama, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the White House Council on Native American Affairs, and the United States Congress to allocate and budget sufficiently increased federal funding for all Indian programs to fully satisfy all immediate and ongoing Indian country needs under applicable treaties and statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby calls on representatives of OMB and Congress to attend the ATNI Winter Convention on February 5, 2015 at the Chinook Winds Casino Resort to engage in meaningful consultation on federal funding for Indian affairs and services.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2014 Trust Reform Meeting of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort, Worley, Idaho on October 17, 2014 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary