



Executive Board Teleconference Call

RESOLUTION #14 - 69

“NORTHWEST PRIORITY ISSUES FOR THE 2014 WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE”

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, ATNI conducted a Sovereignty Summit November 19-20, 2014 in Warm Springs, OR where members of the ATNI Executive Board and Tribal Leaders in attendance

engaged with committee chairs who presented priorities in their subject areas and arrived at five issues deemed to be priorities to be moved forward to the White House Tribal Nations Conference and member Tribes' congressional delegations; and

WHEREAS, the five identified issues being Trust Reform, Government to Government Relationships, Climate Change, Economic Development, and, Indian Child Welfare; and

WHEREAS, Trust Reform was identified as a priority issue because based on our recognition that in nearly every instance, Indian tribes are in a better position to manage their affairs than the federal government and congressional passage and enactment into law of H.R. 409/S.165 remains ATNI's top trust reform priority; and

WHEREAS, Government to Government Relationships was determined a priority issue because a sound and consistent consultation process remains to be developed and is critical in the strengthening of the relationship between Tribes and the Federal government as well as Federal Policy that has Tribal implications; and

WHEREAS, Climate Change was determined a priority because, in 2011 ATNI adopted resolution #11-77 on Traditional Knowledge and Climate Change which recognized that Climate Change impacts Tribes and Alaska Native communities more than any other communities in the United States and request U.S. agencies to a) recognize Tribal sovereign authority; b) engage Tribal governments on climate change policy; c) respect and protect Tribal traditional knowledge and comply with UN Declaration of Indigenous Peoples – free, prior, informed consent on use of traditional knowledge; and d) provide support and funding to build Tribal capacity for climate change adaptation and mitigation; and; and

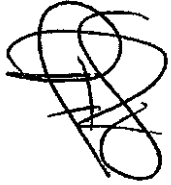
WHEREAS, Economic Development was identified as a priority because Tribes have emerged as engines of economic development in the rural communities where they are located the Federal Government must improve cooperation and coordination to improve the wealth and welfare of these larger communities and the United States as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Indian Child Welfare was identified as priority because despite the Indian Child Welfare Act 1) being enacted in 1978 and 2) embodying the principles and processes considered to be the 'gold standard', data still indicates the widespread noncompliance of the Act, whereby negatively affecting American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children and their families, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI has determined five priority issues – Trust Reform, Government to Government Relationships, Climate Change, Economic Development and, Indian Child Welfare – to be addressed by the Obama Administration.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was via Executive Board teleconference call, on November 26, 2014, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary