



## **2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **April 23, 2015**

#### **RESOLUTION #15 - 16**

### **“AFFILIATED TRIBES OF NORTHWEST INDIANS (ATNI) & UNITED AND SOUTHEASTERN TRIBES (USET) – COLLABORATIVE BI-COASTAL TRIBAL CONSORTIUM CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE”**

#### **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**, at the 2011 Annual ATNI Conference in Tulalip, Washington the ATNI approved Resolution #11-77 on Traditional Knowledge and Climate Change which called upon

the U.S. government to provide adequate and proportional funding for Tribal climate change adaptation and mitigation; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is a threat to American Indian culture, resources, and wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indians are entrusted by our ancestors with traditional ecological knowledge that has been an accumulation of centuries of knowledge , practice, and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission; and

**WHEREAS**; American Indians are the first impacted by global climate change for the rest of humanity; and today climate change is drastically affecting indigenous peoples' hunting, fishing, gathering, economic infrastructure, reservation locations, usual and accustom areas and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, primary impacts on American Indians are prolonged droughts or excessive rainfall causing floods, extreme weather shifts brought on by warming, diminishing and disappearing sources of fresh water, changes in habitat for wildlife, and marine resources, that impact cultural and treaty reserved rights, federal/tribal agreement rights, threatens the sustainability for our communities and impacts on first food sources; and

**WHEREAS**, Native rights are place-based rights, based on historical, legally recognized and longtime occupation of Indigenous territories. Indigenous nations are in a unique venerable position in regards to climate change. Their land base provides few opportunities to relocate or expand or cope with changing climate. Treaty rights and reserved rights are fixed to specific parcels of land, so that it is unclear what tribal rights to resources might shift away from their reserved lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Administration has taken strides that support Tribal measures to cope with climate change, including, but not limited to, the November 5, 2009, Executive Memo directing agency heads to submit a detailed plan of actions that agencies will take to implement the policies; Executive Order 13175 - Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments; and Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3289 - Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resource; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Climate Change Programs for FY2015 and has identified two major funding programs which ATNI is eligible to apply for. In this request for proposals, the BIA has up to \$8 million available for awards to support tribal climate change adaptation (\$4 million) and ocean and coastal management planning (\$4 million). Each program includes the follow funding categories:

Category 1. **Trainings & Workshops.** Design and host tribal training(s) or workshop(s) to support tribal leaders, climate change coordinators, planners, and program managers to build skills and gather information needed to coordinate the tribal adaptation planning process.

Category 2. **Climate Adaptation Planning.** Develop tribal government climate adaptation plans, vulnerability assessments, or data analysis.

Category 3. **Travel.** Provide travel support for tribal leaders and staff to attend training(s) or workshop(s) or to participate in cooperative climate change adaptation efforts (including Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, Climate Science Centers, and other adaptation management forums); and

**WHEREAS**, the ATNI and United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET) have an existing inter-Tribal covenant between ATNI and USET to coordinate their efforts to address issues of common and national concern; and

**WHEREAS**, representatives of the ATNI and USET organizations met at the ATNI Tribal Leaders Climate Change Summit in March, 2015 and recognized the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of sharing strategies, identifying similarities, collaborative opportunities, and lessons learned from their respective member Tribes and agreed to collaborate on separate but integrated proposals for three critical projects as part of the “Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) & United and Southeastern Tribes (USET) – Collaborative Bi-Coastal Tribal Consortium Climate Change Initiative”. These BIA Category 1 and Category 3 projects include:

- 1.** Collaborative Bi-Coastal Tribal Climate Change Workshops: ATNI and USET will collaboratively plan two Bi-Coastal Tribal Climate Change workshops (1 West Coast/1 East Coast) between ATNI and USET member tribes.
- 2.** Tribal Climate Change Boot Camp: The ATNI, USET, USGS NW Climate Science Center, University of Idaho, and the Institute for Tribal Government at Portland State University propose to design and conduct a week long Tribal Climate Change Boot Camp on the west coast in the spring/summer of 2016; and
- 3.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tribal Leaders Summit (Summit) on Climate Change:  
The goal of the Summit is to:
  1. Gather ATNI and USET Tribal Leaders to Discuss Climate Change Impacts;
  2. Share Tribal Strategies, Plans, Policy on Climate Change, Energy, and Carbon Emissions;
  3. Discuss and Identify Regional, National, and International Policy and Forums;
  4. Discuss Tribal Climate Change Needs and Funding;
  5. Identify Strategies to Promote Tribal Sovereignty, Protect Tribal Resources, and Implement the Presidential and DOI Secretarial Orders;
  6. Discuss Interest in Developing a Regional and National Tribal Action Plan on Climate Change, Energy, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**WHEREAS**, the ATNI Executive Board has responsibility to carry out the duties and directives of the Executive Council and to act for the Executive Council during the interval between meetings. The Executive Board shall carry out this responsibility through the adoption of goals, policies and guidelines of the organization. In addition, the Executive Board has the responsibility to provide organizational and operational support for the programs, facilities, member relations, and public relations; now

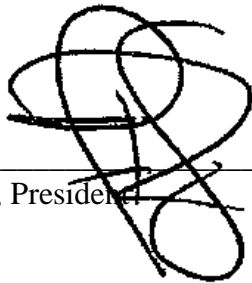
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the ATNI requests that the United States, its agencies, scientists and all relevant organizations recognize, build and enhance Tribal capacity to lead on climate change issues; to provide adequate and proportional funding for Tribal climate change adaptation and mitigation; to provide for emergency funding for dangerous climate-related impacts such as severe coastal erosion and flooding; to substantially increase funding to address ecosystem-based approaches for maintaining Tribal access to First Foods, species at risk; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the ATNI urges the United States government agencies, taskforces, and partner organizations comply with and implement the November 5, 2009, Executive Memo, Executive Order 13175 and Secretarial Order 3289, and partner with American Indians as sovereign nations as co-decision makers all policy, regulations and laws related to climate change on or off each nation's respected reservations, ceded lands and usual and accustomed areas; and


**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the ATNI Executive Board does hereby support the ATNI & USET – Collaborative Bi-Coastal Tribal Consortium Climate Change Initiative” for BIA Funding as submitted by ATNI as well as support the USET Climate Change proposal developed in collaboration with ATNI.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the ATNI Executive Board on April 23, 2015, 2015, with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary