



2015 Mid-Year Convention Warm Springs, Oregon

RESOLUTION #15 - 29

"SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL TRIBAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION POLICY ON UNIVERSAL VOICE AND BROADBAND SERVICE ON TRIBAL LANDS"

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, a primary goal of ATNI's Telecommunications Committee is to obtain access to infrastructure that provides high speed internet and voice phone coverage in rural native communities; and

WHEREAS, ATNI Member Tribes made significant progress this past year in informing, educating and advocating on broadband needs to leadership at the White House and the United States Congress, as well as State Representatives on the lack of broadband coverage and the impacts on Native Health, Social Services, Education, Economic Development, Public Safety, Small Business Development, Governmental Services, and Emergency Management Services; and

WHEREAS, Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, ensures that all Americans, regardless of where they live, will have access to communication services at reasonable rates; and

WHEREAS, this universal service principle has proven vital for carriers providing communication services to Tribal Areas; and

WHEREAS, the Universal Service Fund (USF) is an \$8 billion dollar fund that provides support for broadband and voice service to schools, libraries, rural health care clinics and to rural and Tribal areas; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) observed that greater financial support may therefore be needed in order to ensure the availability of broadband in Tribal Lands; and

WHEREAS, the National Tribal Telecommunications Association (NTTA) is a national advocate for telecommunications service on behalf of its Tribally-owned member telephone companies and provides guidance and assistance to members who are working to provide modern telecommunications services to Tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, NTTA and ATNI strongly urge the FCC to implement a Tribal Broadband Fund, as recommended in the National Broadband Plan; and

WHEREAS, NTTA and ATNI have adopted a statement of position including recommendations for next steps in reforming the federal universal service programs for Rate of Return carriers and areas they serve; and

WHEREAS, the FCC maintains and strengthens the Federal Lifeline Program, and works to expand it to include broadband services in Tribal areas; and

WHEREAS, ATNI adopts and supports NTTA's desires to include all carriers serving tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, NTTA and ATNI ask the FCC to take into account the higher costs associated with providing broadband service to tribal areas as it reforms the USF high-cost mechanism; and

WHEREAS, NTTA members and ATNI will call on the FCC to increase the size of the USF because the current funding is insufficient to meet the needs for deploying broadband to tribal lands especially given the increases in broadband speed the FCC has asked carriers to deploy; now

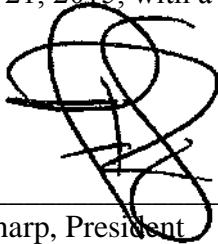
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NTTA and ATNI urge the FCC to create a tribal coefficient or similar mechanism that addresses the unique and economic challenges to serve tribal lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, ATNI supports the National Tribal Telecommunications Association position for the FCC to augment and strengthen existing public policy goals of Universal voice and Broadband services on Tribal Lands; and

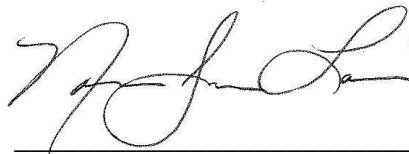
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians hereby supports the efforts of the National Tribal Telecommunications Association's consultation and advocacy that respects the sovereign needs of tribal nations.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Spa, Warm Springs, Oregon on May 18-21, 2015, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary