



2015 Mid-Year Convention Warm Springs, Oregon

RESOLUTION #15 - 35

“HOUSING URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (HUD/VASH) VOUCHER DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR RECONSIDERATION OF FEDERAL REGISTER AND FINAL DECISION”

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, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), has promoted the initiative of the “Voucher Distribution Program” to add to

the Federal Register by June 14, 2015, and to be “implemented as decided” by HUD/VASH, to distribute directly to tribes, the estimated 600-650 vouchers without any consultation with the 57 tribes of the Pacific Northwest, the \$4 million allocated for this nationwide distribution program, which would only benefit one voucher per tribe; and

WHEREAS, HUD/VASH failed to distribute the “Tribal Leader letter” dated January 26, 2015 to all tribes to meet the timeline of the comment period due to HUD/VASH by March 28, 2015 and without having a complete data base of per capita of veterans or homeless veterans within Indian Country or providing the formula for distribution; and

WHEREAS, due to the voucher requests being initiated within the 57 Tribes of the Northwest Region, ATNI requests that HUD/VASH reconsider the implementation of this voucher distribution program until September of 2015; to allow the 57 Tribes of ATNI to have the opportunity to consult for the amount of vouchers needed, allowing time to access size of rural reservations and housing needs, to determine service to veterans and veterans families who may qualify, and

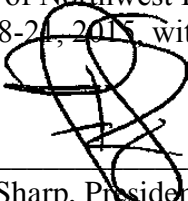
WHEREAS, to determine the number of homeless in each nation and the serious need to determine the “at risk” homeless veterans, also considering the location of services available to veterans and veteran families and to qualify them for eligibility for veteran services and benefits for transition of homeless veterans; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby respectfully request that HUD/VASH, to meet their fiduciary and trust responsibility to the Federally recognized tribes, in consideration of a nationwide voucher distribution program, delay the implementation and addition to the Federal Register until the 57 tribes of ATNI can be consulted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians support the reconsideration of the June 14, 2015 deadline, requesting that HUD/VASH reconsider the process and implementation of this voucher program until the ATNI member Tribes have a reasonable time to submit the information needed to determine the required amount of vouchers per tribe; and that the HUD/VASH, be required to address the amount of allotment for all Federally Recognized tribes with the most serious of rural, housing and service needs.

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