



## **2015 Annual Convention Spokane, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #15 - 47**

**“URGE WASHINGTON STATE HOUSING FINANCE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER AND IMPLEMENT THE SIX (6) RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSING CONCERNS”**

#### **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**, there is a huge unmet need for housing to serve Native American populations; by HUD’s own estimates, Federal grant programs are meeting only 5-10% of the need, nationally; and

**WHEREAS**, allocations to Washington State of annual Low Income Housing Tax Credits are administered by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission (the Commission); and

**WHEREAS**, there are proposed changes to the Commission's Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP), which if implemented, would have an adverse impact on Native American Tribes in the State of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, there are six areas of concern being addressed in this resolution relating to these proposed changes in the QAP, namely:

1. Existing Commission policy states that projects qualified as a 4% tax credit/bond deal will not be funded with the 9% tax credit; proposed change will require an applicant to schedule a "pre-meeting" for preauthorization before applying for the 9% credit; most Tribal projects are viable as 4% tax credit/bond deals;
2. Proposed changes to Total Development Cost (TDC) will award cost containment points for projects that come in at 5% and 10% below the TDC; Tribal projects will not benefit by the cost containment points which puts them in a disadvantage in scoring;
3. Current policy awards 5 additional points to projects that donate to a 501(c)(3) on the basis of the greater of 25 basis points of total project costs, or \$10,000; the proposal will set the rate at a fixed \$10,000; this negatively impacts the work of Northwest Indian Housing Association (NWIHA), which has benefited and expanded housing services in Indian country;
4. No specific proposal has been advanced for a change in policy which "allows additional points under target areas" for Indian Tribal project;
5. There is no specific set-aside for Indian Tribal projects;
6. The Commission does not meet regularly with Indian Tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, NWIHA offers six solutions for these areas of concern, namely:

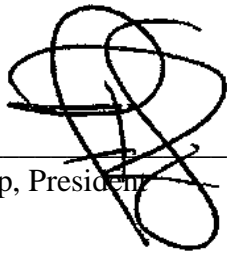
1. Give emphasis to preserving the 9% credits for Indian Tribal projects;
2. Eliminate giving TDC cost containment points as that policy negatively impacts Indian Tribal projects;
3. Do not change the policy that gives additional points to projects that donate to a 501(c)(3);
4. Award the same number of points for projects in eligible Indian Tribal areas, regardless of counties where they are located;
5. Establish a 10% set-aside for Indian Tribal projects in the State of Washington;
6. Beginning in 2016, establish an annual Native American Summit to discuss concerns and suggestions for policy changes; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges the Washington State Housing Finance Commission to consider and implement the six (6) recommended solutions for the areas of concerns enumerated in this resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges the National Congress of American Indians, the NAIHC, the eight (8) other regional NAIHC housing organizations to join the NIHA in supporting this resolution.

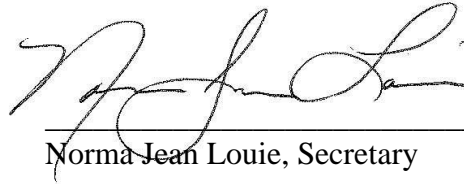
**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Spokane, Washington on September 14-17, 2015, with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary