



## **2016 Winter Convention Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort**

### **RESOLUTION #16 – 07**

#### **“SUPPORT OF WASHINGTON STATE BILL NO. HJM 4014: CONCERNING THE REINTRODUCTION OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD ABOVE BLOCKED AREAS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER”**

#### **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**, on January 28, 2016, the State of Washington’s 64th Legislature introduced House Joint Memorial (“HJM”) 4014, attached hereto, which urges the federal government and the region to pursue the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead above the Chief Joseph and

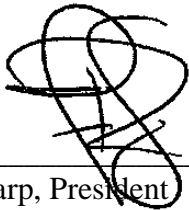
Grand Coulee dams through a pragmatic and science-based approach that can lead to fish passage and reintroduction in the upper reaches of the Columbia river system, which is currently blocked by those named dams; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby supports this effort by the State of Washington to prompt the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead above the Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams so that these fish can return to their traditional habitats in the upper reaches of the Columbia river system, which is also home to several ATNI member tribes who have used these same waters and salmon and steelhead since time immemorial; and

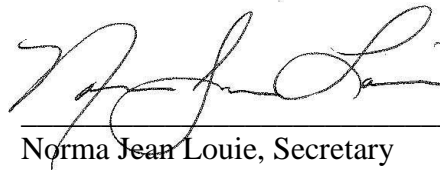
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI recognizes that this may be a small step in reintroducing salmon and steelhead into the upper Columbia river system, accordingly, ATNI hereby urges the federal government, who operate the Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams, to promptly take meaningful action to spur fish passage over those named dams that currently block all salmon and steelhead migration to and from the upper Columbia river system for the benefit of all.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2016 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, Suquamish, Washington on February 1- 4, 2016, with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary