



2016 Annual Convention Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #16 - 44

“CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT AND RESTORE TRIBAL RESOURCES IMPACTED HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE”

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, since time immemorial, indigenous people, have cared for and sustained our way of life, religion, and culture that we hold sacred, and we are obligated to take appropriate and necessary actions to care for our resources for the generations unborn; and

WHEREAS, Tribal people have witness the desecration of our homelands; polluted by industry, oil spills, and nuclear production threatening our culture, our traditional way of life, and the health of our people; and

WHEREAS, federal statutory authorities provide the regulatory structure to protect and restore tribal resources impacted by the release of hazardous substances; and

WHEREAS, primary restoration actions undertaken to return an injured resource to baseline conditions is authorized by Congress, and integration of restoration into hazardous substance cleanup decisions is practicable and necessary to protect the natural resources which Tribal members depend on; and

WHEREAS, cleanup decisions at hazardous waste sites are unacceptable, disproportionately impacting Tribal members health and way of life; and

WHEREAS, Tribal leaders recognize our sacred responsibility to the health, well-being, and survival of our people and how inadequate cleanups of contaminated sites will continue to adversely impact future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation has been a leader in Comprehensive Environmental Resources, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 clean up actions and Natural Resource Damage Assessment claims ensuring funding has been made available to pursue participation in cleanup activities and injury assessment at the Hanford site and other hazardous waste sites on ceded lands, recognizes this as an issue of Regional and National concern for all Tribes; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges the Federal government and States to clean up contaminated sites so that the disproportionate health risks to Tribal people are eliminated; and

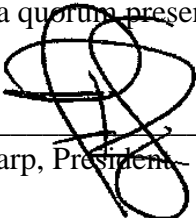
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls for primary restoration of contaminated sites to ensure the ecosystem is healthy and can provide the physical and spiritual nourishment to Tribal members as it has in the past and for future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI urges that the United States government ensures that Treaty resources are available for gathering and use, without concern of risk to our health and wellbeing, as obligated by Executive Order and Treaties with Indian Tribes; and

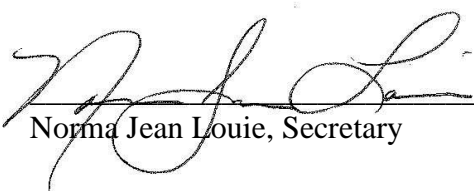
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that adverse effects of hazardous waste sites occurs near many Tribal people's lands.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2016 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Tulalip Resort Casino, Tulalip, Washington on September 26-29, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary