



2016 Annual Convention Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #16 - 55

“SUPPORT FOR SECURE FUNDING OF THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND”

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 December 4, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, or FAST Act, authorizing rising spending levels that will benefit Indian Country for the next five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, the funding for this federal transportation legislation is heavily reliant on the Highway Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Trust Fund receives revenue from the federal fuel tax; and

WHEREAS, the last federal increase of the fuel tax was under President Clinton and is not tied to inflation; and

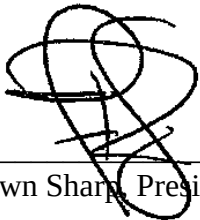
WHEREAS, the Highway Trust Fund does not have the revenues to cover the approved spending obligations; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby support and recommend the Congress raise the federal fuel tax and/or secure other funding sources, thereby fully funding the Highway Trust Fund as a means of the Federal Government to meet their funding obligations to Indian Country; and

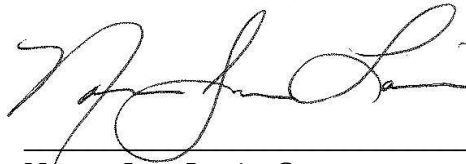
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI will forward this resolution to the National Congress of American Indians as the issue of holding the federal government accountable for its obligations to Indian Country is larger than our member Tribes and Region.

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