



2017 Winter Convention Grand Mound, WA

RESOLUTION #17 - 06

“PORT GAMBLE S’KLALLAM TRIBE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TRIBAL ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (EDDP)”

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, in February 2007, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) requested proposals for tribal administration of Basic Food and Children’s Family and Pregnancy Medicaid Programs; and

WHEREAS, in January 2010, the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe became one of the first tribes in the nation to conduct eligibility determinations for Basic Food and several Medicaid

programs under a five-year Tribal Eligibility Determinations Demonstration Project approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); and

WHEREAS, the five-year Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Tribal Determination Demonstration Project was to run from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2014, and is currently under a fourth extension to run until June 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, extension beyond authorized dates depends on FNS approval; and

WHEREAS, a feasibility study was completed, and FNS will consider Corrective Action Plans and management evaluations that the Department of Social Health Services (DSHS) and the Tribe have been working on; and

WHEREAS, continuation of the Port Gamble Community Service Office also requires an FNS waiver of the requirement that SNAP certification functions be performed by Merit System of Personnel Administration employees under Sec. 11 (e)(6)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act Of 2008, as amended; and

WHEREAS, initial reports indicate that Native American participation in SNAP increased by 35 percent in the zip codes served by the Port Gamble Community Service Office; and

WHEREAS, additional tribes have expressed interest in providing this service, and are eager to see the Project expanded; and

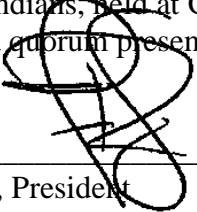
WHEREAS, participants at the Indian Policy Advisory Committee met on April 14, 2016 and passed a Resolution confirming their support for DSHS in seeking Project expansion, and requested that a resolution in support of this project be brought to ATNI and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI); now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the preceding summary that serves as the basis for supporting the continuation of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's Eligibility Determination Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the extension of the FNS program to Tribes who request to serve their families promoting their health by enhancing nutrition.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington, on January 23 – 26, 2017, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary