



2017 Mid-Year Convention Portland, OR

RESOLUTION #17 - 22

“SUPPORTING THE REINTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE BY CONGRESS OF THE “ADVANCE” ACT”

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, the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Fund in the U.S. Department of Treasury administers the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program, which has provided a flexible and needed source of financing for projects in Indian country; and

WHEREAS, the CDFI Fund allocates the tax credits to Community Development Entities (CDEs) on a competitive basis, and CDEs that receive an allocation then consider and award tax credits to individual projects; and

WHEREAS, while some Indian tribes have effectively utilized NMTCs for infrastructure and other projects, Indian country continues to have the lowest utilization of NMTCs of the economically distressed communities that the program was intended to benefit; and

WHEREAS, in the 114th Congress, bi-partisan legislation was introduced that would (1) direct the CDFI Fund to provide proactive outreach and training to underserved communities, including Indian country; (2) memorialize an incentive currently in the application to receive a NMTC allocation for those CDE applicants that commit to making investments in Indian country; and (3) to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that at least one CDE whose primary mission is to fund projects within or that benefit Indian country receives an allocation in each round; and

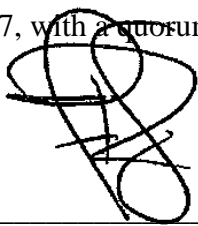
WHEREAS, the sponsors of the legislation will soon be reintroducing it in substantively identical form in the 115th Congress as the Aiding Development of Vital Assets in Native Communities and Environments Act, or the "ADVANCE" Act; and

WHEREAS, if enacted into law, the ADVANCE Act will ensure that a portion of the NMTCs made available by the CDFI Fund nationwide will be allocated to Indian country projects; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby support the introduction, swift consideration by Congress, and enactment into law of the ADVANCE Act.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Double Tree by Hilton - Portland, Oregon, on May 23-26, 2017, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary