



2017 Annual Convention Spokane, WA

RESOLUTION #17 - 44

“SUPPORT FOR THE INDIAN LAND TENURE FOUNDATION’S SOCIAL IMPACT BOND FOR INDIAN LAND TITLE CONSOLIDATION PROJECT”

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, many Northwest Tribal lands were allotted by way of the Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887 (Slater Allotment Act of 1885 affected the Umatilla Tribes), which broke up Indian Reservations into parcels owned by Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the Allotment period is considered to have had an overall negative effect on Tribes and their members, prompted by desire to acquire or lease Indian lands by farmers, ranchers, and railroads; and

WHEREAS, the coinciding system to manage those lands fell to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, resulting in differing levels of management, exceedingly complex processes and transactions, and Indian lands underutilized by Indian people for their individual or collective benefit; and

WHEREAS, the other outcome of this management system was that the individual parcel allotments, over time with no estate planning or wills, the probate processes divided those ownerships among eligible heirs, resulting in many parcels having hundreds of owners in common; and

WHEREAS, Indian lands that were not allotted were typically sold at public auction for pennies on the dollar to local interests; and

WHEREAS, the Elouise Cobell Settlement resulted in the Department of Interior Land Buy-Back Program for willing sellers that resulted in higher levels of consolidation under Tribal ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Buy Back Program is shifting focus to accommodate the individual allotment owner's interests to consolidate their own ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Land Tenure Foundation was formed in 2002 with a mission to ensure that "Land within the original boundaries of every reservation and other areas of high significance where tribes retain aboriginal interest are in Indian ownership and management;" and

WHEREAS, the Indian Land Tenure Foundation has recently embarked on an effort to provide substantial and sustained resources to assist Indian landowners to effectively acquire, control, and utilize their interests; and

WHEREAS, the major feature of this effort is to stop and reverse fractionation of Indian allotments that have frustrated ownership control; and

WHEREAS, a proposal was structured to make use of a funding mechanism, Social Impact Bonds, where administrative cost savings from estate planning and consolidation efforts will pay for these tools; and

WHEREAS, initial indications from the Department of Interior and Land Buy Back Program leadership is positive; and

WHEREAS, this proposal was presented at the 2017 ATNI Annual Convention to the Natural Resource/Land, Trust Reform, and Economic Development Committees to seek positive feedback and recommendation for support; now

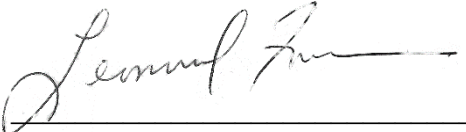
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby support the Indian Land Tenure Foundation's Social Impact Bond for Indian Land Title Consolidation proposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly recommends that the United States Department of Interior actively support this effort and enter into appropriate partnership agreements; and

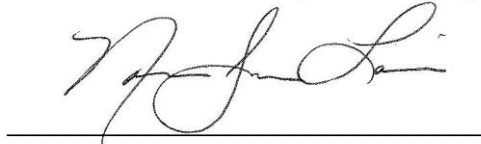
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly encourages the United States Congress to approve legislation authorizing the project.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2017 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane, Washington on September 18-21, 2017, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary