



2017 Annual Convention Spokane, WA

RESOLUTION #17 - 51

OPPOSING THE SITING OF THE PROPOSED TACOMA LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PLANT

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, our economy, culture, religions and way of life has been centered around our fishing, hunting, and gathering resources, and the lands and waters upon which they depend, and we have been and remain careful and conscientious stewards over them to ensure their continued health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the tribes of ATNI depend on the natural resources of this region to sustain; our way of life, rights to fish, hunt and gather, our economies, human health and fulfill our sacred obligation to protect our First Foods and our most precious natural resources, water; and

WHEREAS, the tribes of ATNI work tirelessly to protect tribal members health, safety, welfare, and futures both within and outside tribal reservations; and

WHEREAS, the tribes of ATNI recognize that Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) could provide a cleaner fuel for ships, trucks, or cars than other fuel sources; however, ATNI tribes cannot accept that tribes, their members and tribal lands are bearing a disproportionate share of the significant risks posed by LNG facilities; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local agencies are supporting LNG storage facilities in areas within or in close proximity to tribal lands without significant input or consideration of tribal interests or rights; and

WHEREAS, LNG storage and the untested technology for such facilities pose significant risks to human safety, human health, and natural resources due to explosive risks, spill risks, and risk to the health of natural resources relied upon by ATNI tribes; and

WHEREAS, LNG proponents are not fully analyzing and disclosing to ATNI tribes or the general public the risks posed by LNG to human safety, human health, and natural resources due to explosive risks, spill risks, and risk to the health of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Tribes' ancestral industry of fisheries relies on sustainable resources that will face detrimental impacts from the construction and operation of LNG storage and fueling facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Tacoma LNG Plant has received several permits for its development that have conditions that other permits be applied for and obtained, including a permit from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency; and

WHEREAS, the proponents of the Tacoma LNG Plant have begun substantial work on the project even where such work is subject to unmet permit conditions and permits that remain under appeal; and

WHEREAS, Federal, state and local authorities are responsible for enforcing the permit conditions and responsible for ensuring permit compliance; and

WHEREAS, the remaining permits for the facility will have significant Tribal Consultation and public participation prior to issuance; and

WHEREAS, the permitting authorities have received notice of the unmet permit conditions and the applicants failure to comply with the legal authorities governing the permitting of the Proposed Tacoma LNG Plant and have yet to act to stop ongoing work on the facility; and

WHEREAS, the failure to hold LNG and other major project proponents to full compliance with the law and permitting conditions, including Tribal Consultation and public participation, prior to initiating construction and expending significant resources is a common occurrence across the United States and capable of repetition on future projects; now

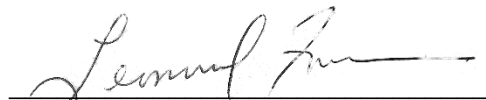
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI is opposed to the siting of the Proposed Tacoma LNG Plant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports a strategy to document and disclose the true risks of construction and operation of LNG storage and distribution facilities to accurately disclose the risks involved with such facilities and promote siting of such facilities in areas where such risks are not disproportionately absorbed by tribes and such risks are lessened for the public as a whole; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI calls for all Federal, State, and Local agencies to ensure cessation of illegal construction activities of the proposed Tacoma LNG Plant.

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