



## **2017 Annual Convention Spokane, WA**

### **RESOLUTION #17 - 53**

#### **“SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BUDGET”**

##### **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 National Park Service has a unique relationship with federally recognized tribes founded in law and strengthened by a shared commitment to the stewardship of land and resources, including tribes of the Pacific Northwest who have legal interests in preserving cultural and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the National Park Service celebrated its centennial and currently manages more than 400 nationally significant sites and an invaluable collection of more than 75,000 natural and cultural assets that span 84 million acres across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories and insular areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service’s mission is to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations;” and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, National Park Service estimates indicate that park visitors spent more than \$16.9 billion at the sites and in the states and local communities adjacent to national parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service has the obligation to preserve our nation’s history; promote access to national parks for all citizens; stimulate revenue to sustain itself and nearby communities; educate the public about America’s natural, cultural and historical resources, and provide safe facilities and environs to enjoy these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the National Park Service estimated a deferred maintenance backlog of nearly \$12 billion, which includes repairs to aging historical structures, trails, sewers, drainage, thousands of miles of roads, bridges, tunnels, and other vital infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of Congress to maintain America’s national parks to ensure our natural places and our history is preserved and documented for future generations, and for the adjacent communities that rely on the direct and indirect economic benefits generated by visits to national park sites; now

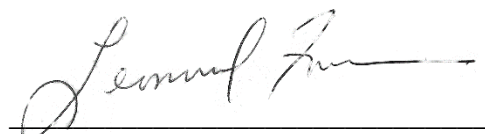
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI requests Congress to create a reliable, predictable stream of resources to address deferred maintenance needs in America’s National Park System, and ensure that the cultural and natural resource interests of the tribes of the Pacific Northwest are preserved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI requests Congress to fully fund the Tribal Historical Preservation Office budget; and

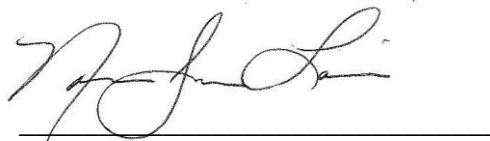
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI’s support is contingent upon not reducing budgets directly impacting Tribes and related services.

### **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