



2018 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #18 - 08

“OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING”

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, anadromous fish, upon which the ATNI member tribes depend, spend significant time in offshore ocean areas of the Pacific Ocean from Oregon to Alaska and the ocean conditions these fish experience affect their survival; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management, pursuant to Executive Order 13795 and Secretarial Order 3350, has released a draft five-year plan to open the Pacific continental shelf and other coastal areas to lease sales for offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling, which includes areas previously protected from exploitation; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling projects increase risks of catastrophic spills of crude oil; and

WHEREAS, catastrophic spills of crude oil have been shown by multiple scientific studies to be harmful to aquatic species including salmon; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling operations produce other types of pollution that harm aquatic life, including drilling muds, brine wastes, deck runoff water, and flowline and pipeline leaks; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling operations would negatively affect tribal and coastal economies, public health, and marine life and exacerbate current stress related to anaerobic zones emerging in the ocean; and

WHEREAS, ATNI opposes and has opposed projects that substantially degrade treaty fishery resources and the ecosystems upon which those resources depend; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling projects in the Pacific Northwest coastal regions would pose significant and irreversible risks to tribal fishery resources, protected under treaties with the United States; now

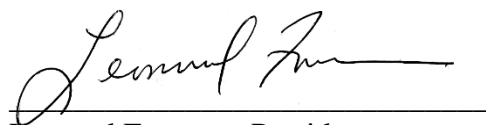
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby opposes any proposal to open the Pacific Northwest oceans to offshore drilling or lease sales and calls upon the federal government to fulfill its trust obligation to protect treaty and aboriginal resources by continuing the moratorium on offshore drilling in these waters and exempting the region from proposed offshore drilling lease sales; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI stands with the governors of Oregon, Washington, and California and a growing bipartisan list of members of Congress who oppose the proposal, citing diverse concerns including lasting harm, past devastation, and scientific evidence against offshore drilling; and

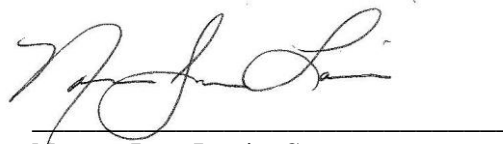
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI calls upon every federal agency involved with actions potentially impacting its member tribes' treaty and aboriginal resources or rights to fulfill its trust obligation to consult directly and individually with each tribe, as is directed by Presidential Executive Order 13175.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2018 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Portland, Oregon, on January 22-25, 2018, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary