



2018 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #18 - 09

SUPPORT “WE ARE STILL IN” COMMITTING TO THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT”

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, Indigenous Peoples in the United States, including 567 federally-recognized Tribes, are facing immediate and significant impacts from climate change; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of literature illustrates the unique issues facing Tribes from climate change, including the recently developed Primer on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples, Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges (TKs) in Climate Change Initiatives, and the special issue of the peer-reviewed journal Climatic Change, “Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the United States: Impacts, Experiences and Actions,” and

WHEREAS, furthermore, Oregon State government acknowledges the disproportionate threats of climate change to Indigenous Peoples, particularly the threat to first foods and health, as described in The Second and Third Oregon Climate Assessment reports published by the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Structured Expert Dialog report concluded that at 2 degrees C of warming, “indigenous people[s] would be at risk of loss of land and cultural and natural heritage, and cultural practices embedded in livelihoods would be disrupted” and therefore the U.N. Indigenous Peoples Caucus advocated States parties (countries) to the Paris Agreement adopt a goal of a temperature rise of no more than 1.5 degrees C of warming; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Paris Agreement also calls on State parties (countries) to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, in June 2017 the Trump administration delivered the first written notice to the U.N. that the U.S. plans to pull out of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, “We Are Still In” declaration began in June 2017 in response to the Trump administration withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement, demonstrates America’s commitment to tackling climate change, ensuring a clean energy future, and upholding the Paris Climate Agreement, which has won the support of 195 nations; and

WHEREAS, “We Are Still In” is an effort coordinated by The American Sustainable Business Council, B Team, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Center for American Progress, Ceres, CDP, Climate Mayors, Climate Nexus, C40, C2ES, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Entrepreneurs, Georgetown Climate Center, ICLEI, National League of Cities, Rocky Mountain Institute, Second Nature, Sierra Club, The Climate Group, We Mean Business, and World Wildlife Fund; and

WHEREAS, “We Are Still In” is a grass roots effort including more than 10 states and Tribes’ signatories, 27 city mayors, and 2,500 leaders from America’s city halls, state houses, boardrooms, and college campuses who have signed the “We Are Still In” declaration; and

WHEREAS, by voluntarily joining others, ATNI stands arm-in-arm with other Americans in dedicating our support for the Paris Accord, specifically, we are committed to the two over-arching goals of “We Are Still In”:

1. Pursue ambitious climate goals, working together to take forceful action and to ensure that the U.S. remains a global leader in reducing emissions; and
2. Remain actively engaged with the international community as part of the global effort to hold warming to well below 2°C; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby joins with tribes, states, municipalities, cities, counties, corporations, foundations, non-governmental organizations, to declare that “We Are Still In,” and we are demonstrating America’s enduring commitment to tackling climate change, ensuring a clean energy future, and upholding the Paris Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as part of “We Are Still In” we intend to contribute by working collaboratively with other stakeholders to develop a forward-looking action-oriented platform including collaborating with the upcoming Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in 2018 and are committed to doing our part, taking steps necessary to protect the world we will bequeath to the next generations; and

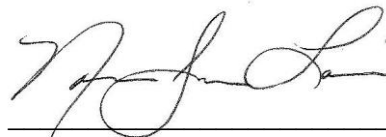
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, ATNI requests all the ATNI member Tribes support and sign on to “We Are Still In” and requests the National Congress of American Indians approve a resolution of support and seek national Tribal support for “We Are Still In.”

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