



2018 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #18 - 11

“NATIVE FARM BILL COALITION”

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 Congress of the United States is preparing to deliberate the nature of agriculture policy for the nation, and the world, in the form of the 2018 Farm Bill, which will authorize all farm programs, rural development, and nutrition initiatives within the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, economic development in Indian Country is tied to agriculture production, which is among the largest industries in Indian Country; providing \$3.4 billion per year, and the policies that provide the framework within which this production happens constitute a large portion of the Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS, not only is an overwhelming majority of the land in Indian Country in agriculture production; a great many of the citizens and tribal members live in rural areas and communities where basic infrastructure costs are often prohibitively high; and the 2018 Farm Bill will provide an authorization of federal funding for rural infrastructure initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and members of these areas are often afflicted by a poverty of place, wherein they are unable to find suitable employment to provide adequate income that supports good nutrition for their families and thus may rely on federal nutrition programs authorized in the Farm Bill; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the great strides made for Indian Country agriculture in previous Farm Bill negotiations, from going virtually unmentioned in the 1990s to many thoughtful provisions scattered across all Titles, the \$3.4 billion generated annually through Indian agriculture efforts is still more than 99% raw commodities, instead of the healthy, local, economically beneficial, and nutritious food needed in Indian Country communities and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, an effort is underway by the Native Farm Bill Coalition, led by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), the Indigenous Food and Ag Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law (IFAI)(research partner), and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to preserve and expand upon the gains made in the previous 30 years of Farm Bill discussions in each of the aforementioned areas; and

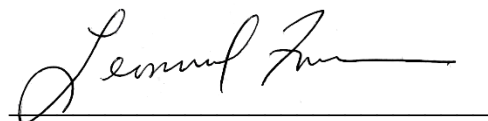
WHEREAS, this effort is the best opportunity in decades for Indian Country to effectively advocate and lobby for enactment of truly relevant and targeted legislation to ensure that federal agriculture policy seeks to enhance the development of this industry beyond raw commodities; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby join the Native Farm Bill Coalition and supports the “Regaining Our Future” report and the policy initiatives generated therefrom; and

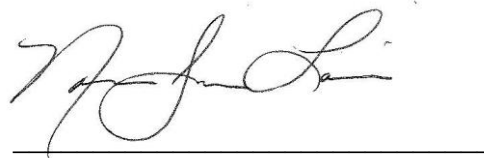
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI requests the Congressional Delegations who represent our member Tribes to lend their support to effective deliberation and swift passage of those priorities set out by the Native Farm Bill Coalition.

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