



2013 Mid-Year Convention Airway Heights, Washington

RESOLUTION #13 - 47

“OPPOSE THE PROPOSALS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION AND EXPORT OF FOSSIL FUELS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST”

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, religion and way of life has centered around our fishing, hunting and gathering resources, and the lands and waters on 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 resource, water; and

WHEREAS, the tribes of ATNI have previously adopted Resolution No. 12-53, in September 2012, recognizing the potential impacts of coal export terminal proposals that have come to the Northwest and the action directed to the Army Corp of Engineers to conduct a full regional Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the significant cumulative impacts of these proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest is facing the advancement of more fossil fuel exports, including numerous oil-rail proposals in Oregon and Washington, which would bring 500,000 barrels of oil a day via rail line to and across Northwest waterways as well as expansion of pipeline capacity from Alberta to British Columbia and Washington State; and

WHEREAS, based on review of proposals at these sites these past twelve months, the tribes of ATNI believe these energy transportation and export proposals will diminish our salmon habitat, our fishing, hunting and gathering rights, our treaty, indigenous, and inherent rights and resources, our life way, and will destroy sacred places of the Pacific Northwest tribes; and

WHEREAS, the tribes of ATNI respect and honor our Sacred Places just as we do our natural resources, including the Lummi Sacred Site known as *Xwe'Chi'eXen* where our ancestors are at rest, and the sacred traditional reef net sites at Cherry Point, Washington; and therefore call upon agencies to fulfill their statutory and legal responsibility to fully comply with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Tribes' ancestral industry of fisheries relies on sustainable resources that will face detrimental impacts from the transportation and export of nonrenewable fossil fuel resources; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI is in opposition of the transportation and export of fossil energy in the Northwest based on infringement and endangerment upon indigenous, inherent, and treaty-protected resources, impacts on human health, economies, sacred places and our traditional way of life; and

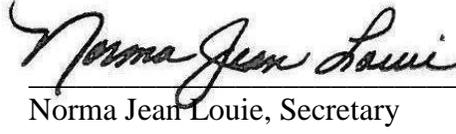
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the tribes of ATNI support a strategy to document the impacts of these fossil fuel energy transport and export proposals, which includes baseline studies of science from a local approach, impacts to the economies, as well as legal and policy initiatives.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Airway Heights, Washington on May 13-May 16, 2013 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary