



## **2012 Annual Convention Pendleton, Oregon**

### **RESOLUTION #12 - 53**

#### **“CALLING FOR FULL, TRANSPARENT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE PORT OF MORROW PROPOSAL, CONSULTATIONS, AND REGIONAL REVIEW OF ALL SIX NW COAL EXPORT PROPOSALS”**

#### **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 have 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 are sovereign and our people depend on the natural resources of this region; and

**WHEREAS**, the tribes of ATNI have an obligation to protect our First Foods and our most precious resource, water; and

**WHEREAS**, there are sweeping proposals for Powder River Basin coal to be shipped by rail and/or barge to West Coast ports: Cherry Point, Washington; Longview, Washington; Grays Harbor, Washington; Port of Morrow, Oregon; St. Helens, Oregon; and Coos Bay, Oregon; and

**WHEREAS**, the coal will then be shipped through our waters to Asia where it will then be burned in coal-fired power plants, emitting mercury and other toxins that return through the atmosphere to our homes; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated coal export volumes from the proposed West Coast ports are unprecedented at over 150 million tons per year; and

**WHEREAS**, Northwest tribes have strong concerns about the impact of these proposals on tribal rights and resources, including but not limited to the following:

- Intrusions into traditional fishing, hunting and gathering sites;
- Destruction of our cultural and religious areas;
- Degradation of human health, related to fugitive coal dust and mercury poisoning;
- Interference with tribal business enterprises and opportunities, causing a loss of jobs, preventing jobs growth, and reducing tribal income, related to increased coal-train traffic;
- Declining water quality and loss of salmon and lamprey habitat from barging and shipping operations;
- Increases in emergency response times, interference with school functions, and fiscal impacts on other public services due to delays at train crossings;
- Filling of shorelines, wetlands, and streams, during expansion or reconstruction of rail lines along the Columbia River, the Salish Sea, and their tributaries;
- Climate change, sea level rise, and ocean acidification from coal-fired power plants; and
- Overall degradation of our natural resources and culture

; and

**WHEREAS**, Northwest tribes require transparency and ongoing consultation to ensure that the permitting and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for all of the proposed coal ports are consistent, in light of the fact that all of our waterways are connected to one another; and

**WHEREAS**, that ATNI hereby declares that a mere Environmental Assessment for the Port of Morrow facility, instead of an EIS, is completely unacceptable, based on a number of

deficiencies, including but not limited to the lack of Government-to-Government consultation required with all affected tribes in the region; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby calls upon the White House Council on Environmental Quality to require immediate preparation of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement for the Port of Morrow proposed coal export facility; and

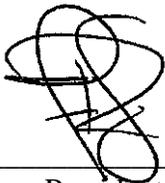
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby calls upon the White House Council on Environmental Quality to direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to develop a comprehensive EIS at the USACE Northwestern Division level, on the cumulative effects of all six currently proposed coal export proposals, and any future proposals, together, including analysis of the cumulative impacts of the proposals throughout the entire region and internationally, including their direct and indirect impacts on tribal cultural resources, treaty rights and interests (see attached letter); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby concludes that a separate EIS is also necessary for each of the coal export facilities individually; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby insists that the White House Council on Environmental Quality mandate all federal and state agencies to commence immediate Government-to-Government consultations with all tribes in the region, as our First Foods and resources, treaty rights and human health are directly impacted by the coal industry in the Northwest.

### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2012 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Wildhorse Resort and Casino, Pendleton, Oregon on September 24 – 27, 2012 with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary