



2019 Mid-Year Convention Airway Heights, Washington

RESOLUTION #19 - 29

“THE SALISH SEA AND OUR SACRED OBLIGATION”

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, ATNI was established to “preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders” and to “preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people;” and

WHEREAS, the Salish Sea, known in the Lummi language as *Xw'ullemy*, has been the home of the Lummi and other tribes since time immemorial and plays a key role in the identity of the Native peoples of the Salish Sea bioregion; and

WHEREAS, the Salish Sea sustains our existence and is intimately associated with virtually all the events and patterns of events in history that have defined and sustained the Lummi culture; and

WHEREAS, the fish, shellfish, marine mammals, avian life, plant life, water quality and air quality are elements that contribute to its cultural significance, as do the traditions and traditional lifeways of the Native peoples of the Salish Sea; and

WHEREAS, the Salish Sea and its critical species including salmon and orca, as other traditional cultural properties continue to be adversely impacted in a manner that is contrary to our inherent and acquired (treaty) rights and is a violation of our treaty and the Supreme Law of the Land; and

WHEREAS, the consultation process between the tribal governments and its Trustees does not fully comply with the first principles of meaningful consultation: full, prior, and informed consent; and

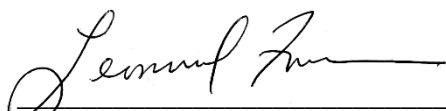
WHEREAS, the crisis in the health of the Salish Sea resulted in the adoption by the Lummi Indian Business Council of the attached document, "Cultural Significance and Management of the *Xwullemy* (Salish Sea)" that has been distributed to local, state, and federal entities whose decisions impact the Salish Sea; and

WHEREAS, we might be the last generation that can save and restore the Salish Sea and, with it, the natural and cultural heritage that is our inheritance and is the birthright of our future generations; now

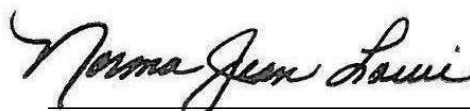
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports, endorses, and adopts the Cultural Significance and Management of the *Xw'ullemy* as part of sacred obligation to our ancestors, ourselves, our future generations, and to the blessings of the Creator.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2019 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Airway Heights, Washington on May 20-23, 2019, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Jeanie Louie, Secretary