



2018 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #18 - 04

“ENDORSE THE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS BILL IN OREGON”

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, the 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 U.S., 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.” 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 Oregon Tribes have specific knowledge about clean energy opportunities on tribal lands and the potential to sequester carbon on tribal land and have experience with innovative partnerships and projects; and

WHEREAS, one sector alone, solar energy, accounts for over 300,000 jobs in the United States, and over 4,000 jobs in Oregon, more than double the number of the jobs at fossil fuel power plants; and

WHEREAS, the transition to clean energy presents economic and community benefit opportunities that surpass further expansion of the fossil fuel economy; and

WHEREAS, renewable sources of energy can have significant public health and other co-benefits that can help address pressing ecological and environmental justice challenges in sensitive ecosystems, Tribal governments, and Native American and rural communities in Oregon and around the country; and

WHEREAS, Tribes and Native Americans have unique experiences and energy expertise and communities are at the frontline of climate change, but are often not included in policy conversations; and

WHEREAS, equitable solutions exist to ensure shared benefits from renewable energy and a transition to a clean energy economy, including but not limited to: access to the financial services, community-based development of renewable energy, equitable pricing structures, community solar programs with low-income carve-outs, non-profit organization leadership, and access to public energy conservation facilities; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the ATNI calls upon all Oregon state government officials, including state agencies to ensure that tribes are full partners in developing and implementing state policy to address mitigating and adapting to climate change in Oregon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ATNI supports state policy and programs that limit climate pollution, internalizes the external costs from that pollution, and invests proceeds in reducing climate pollution and promoting community benefit; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ATNI members will proactively engage in advancing state efforts to reduce climate pollution and promote clean energy jobs by:

- Sustaining efforts until a bill is passed;
- Submitting letters of support from individual tribal governments to decision-makers;
- Participating in implementation processes where possible;
- Defending against opposition and efforts to weaken or repeal;
- Support the coordination and involvement of Oregon Tribes; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI moves to endorse the Oregon Clean Energy Jobs bill to cap and price Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions and invest proceeds in Oregon’s clean energy economy and call on all Oregon state government officials, including state agencies to ensure that Oregon tribes are full partners in developing and implementing the Clean Energy Jobs bill in Oregon.

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