



2023 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #2023 – 15

“IN PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES – *PUSHPUM* (JUNIPER POINT, WASH.)”

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 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 ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI-member tribal governments claim inherent sovereign authority to protect Traditional Cultural Properties that have religious and ceremonial significance in their ancestral food-gathering and subsistence grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (“Yakama Nation”), an ATNI-member, opposes the development of proposed pump storage at Juniper Point, Washington, also known as *Pushpum* located in the Yakama Treaty-territory, on the basis

of permanent and irreparable destruction of Traditional Cultural Properties that hold sacred religious and ceremonial importance to the Yakama Nation; and

WHEREAS, in July 2022, the leadership of 17 Treaty-tribal governments issued a public letter in support of the Yakama Nation and urged the Washington State Governor to deny permits for proposed pumped storage development that would destroy sacred food-gathering and ceremonial sites at *Pushpum*; and

WHEREAS, environmental analysis of proposed development at *Pushpum* under the Washington State Environmental Protection Act concurs that construction and operation of the proposed pump storage project indicates significant and unavoidable adverse impacts on tribal and cultural resources; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATNI supports and stands with the Yakama Nation's opposition to proposed pump storage development at *Pushpum* and the permitting of development that threatens to destroy Traditional Cultural Properties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ATNI also calls on the Washington State Governor to honor the environmental conclusions from his own state Department of Ecology by denying permits for the proposed pump storage project on sacred land; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ATNI call on the National Congress of American Indians to review, consider, and concur with this resolution on an emergency basis at the Executive Council Winter Session 2023 for the purpose of standing together in support of indigenous inherent sovereignty and Treaty-reserved rights against state and federal permits for development that threatens to destroy Traditional Cultural Properties at *Pushpum*.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on January 22-26, 2023 with a quorum approving.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary