

**ATNI Annual 2025 Convention**

**Suquamish, Washington**

**RESOLUTION # 2025 –** **DRFT-XX**

***Draft 1 Due to*** ***workroom@atnitribes.org*** ***by September 26, 2025***

***Final Draft passed by Committee due to*** ***workroom@atnitribes.org*** ***by 3:00 PM on October 15, 2025***

“SUPPORTING THE NORTHWEST RISE INITIATIVE: STRENGTHENING TRIBAL PROCUREMENT SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIVE ENTERPRISE”

**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 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 the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS,** the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS,** creating opportunities for Indian Nations, preservation of tribal sovereignty and protection of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

**WHEREAS,** tribal procurement systems are essential tools of tribal sovereignty, enabling Tribal Nations to enforce Native preference policies, support tribal citizens, and ensure economic benefits remain within Native communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Native-owned businesses and entrepreneurs are critical drivers of tribal economic resilience, serving as job creators, culture-bearers, community investors, and innovation leaders who generate wealth that stays within tribal economies; and

**WHEREAS,** despite their significance, Native-owned businesses are often underutilized in tribal procurement systems due to fragmented registration processes, inconsistent policy enforcement, limited visibility in decision-making spaces, and structural barriers that leave countless Native vendors excluded from the economies they help sustain; and

**WHEREAS,** unpredictable federal funding cycles, economic disruptions from global trade volatility, and inflation-driven procurement pressures have created an urgent need for sovereignty-centered economic infrastructure in Indian Country; and

**WHEREAS,** Northwest Rise (NW Rise) is a cross-sector, regionally anchored strategic initiative designed to unlock the full potential of Native enterprise and tribal procurement sovereignty in the Pacific Northwest; and

**WHEREAS,** NW Rise aims to unify Tribal Nations and Native-owned businesses under a shared mission of economic transformation, activate collective purchasing power as a tool for sovereignty and growth, and leverage the Inter-Tribal Trade Exchange Network (ITTE) to modernize procurement processes, enforce tribal policy, and expand contract access for Native vendors; and

**WHEREAS,** NW Rise establishes five interconnected strategic goals: (1) building regional infrastructure for sovereign procurement; (2) growing and activating 500+ Native-owned vendors; (3) supporting tribal integration of procurement policy and platform tools; (4) catalyzing intertribal trade and cooperative purchasing; and (5) demonstrating measurable economic impact through replicable models; and

**WHEREAS,** the initiative offers Tribal Nations practical tools, including co-branded vendor registration portals, culturally grounded technical assistance, procurement modernization resources, joint purchasing opportunities, and enforcement mechanisms for Native preference and licensing compliance; and

**WHEREAS,** NW Rise represents an opportunity to recapture economic benefits through improved vendor compliance, licensing fee recovery, and increased utilization of Native-owned businesses, while strengthening government-to-government relationships among participating tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** the phased implementation approach (2025-2027) provides a pragmatic pathway for tribal participation, beginning with pilot partnerships and scaling toward regional coordination that demonstrates measurable economic uplift and sovereignty strengthening; and

**WHEREAS,** successful implementation of NW Rise will create a replicable model of Indigenous-led economic sovereignty that can be adapted to serve tribal communities beyond the Pacific Northwest region; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**  that ATNI endorses and supports the NW Rise Initiative as a strategic priority for strengthening tribal procurement sovereignty and advancing Native economic self-determination in the Pacific Northwest; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**  that ATNI encourages its member tribes in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, southeast Alaska, Northern California, and Western Montana to actively consider participation in NW Rise, including exploring pilot partnerships, vendor registration initiatives, and intertribal cooperative purchasing opportunities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**  that ATNI recognizes the Northwest Native Chamber and Red Rock Innovations as collaborative partners in advancing tribal economic sovereignty through the NW Rise Initiative and commends their commitment to centering Indigenous values, tribal governance, and Native business empowerment; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that ATNI supports efforts to secure funding and resources necessary for the successful implementation of NW Rise, including philanthropic investment, federal grant opportunities, and tribal financial participation that aligns with sovereignty-strengthening procurement reform; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** NW Rise partners commit to providing regular updates, best practices, and success stories through ATNI conferences, communications, and regional gatherings to facilitate knowledge exchange and encourage broader tribal participation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**  that ATNI advocates for federal policies and programs that support tribal procurement sovereignty, including technical assistance, infrastructure funding, and regulatory frameworks that enable tribes to effectively enforce Native preference policies and strengthen Indigenous economic networks; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

OPTIONAL BOX: *If you’re not able to enter the clauses individually above, use this box for your resolution. Click or tap here to enter text*.

**NOTES FOR DRAFT:**

* Add additional ‘**WHEREAS**’ clauses by clicking the [+] at the bottom-right corner of the text box.
* Add additional ‘**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**’ clauses by clicking the [+] at the bottom-right corner of the text box.
* If you’re having trouble adding clauses individually, or if you’re copy-pasting from another document, use the OPTIONAL BOX for your whole resolution. You don’t need to include the preamble or first three ‘WHEREAS’s.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Annual Convention held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, Washington on October 12-16, 2025, with a quorum present.

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Leonard Forsman, President [NAME], Secretary

Resolution Title [*CTRL+F9*]:

“TITLE”

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**Sponsor of Resolution\***: Eddie Sherman (Lifetime Individual Indian Member) **Cell Phone**: 503-928-0184

*ATNI Member in Good Standing*

**Sponsor’s Email: eddie@againstthecurrent.consulting**

**Does this resolution have attachments to be included** (if yes, please attach)[x]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**

**Request to Forward this Resolution to NCAI?** [ ]  **Yes** [x]  **No**

*Resolutions forwarded to NCAI must be sponsored by an NCAI Member in Good Standing. Resolution must be presented by the sponsor or designee in-person at the appropriate NCAI Convention.*

**Presenter at NCAI**: Click or tap here to enter text. **Cell Phone**: Click or tap here to enter text.
*NCAI Member in Good Standing*

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| [ ]  **Culture/Elders** | [ ]  **Health**  | [ ]  **Native Vote** | [ ]  **Transportation** |
| [ ]  **Drug Abuse & Prev.** | [ ]  **Housing** | [ ]  **Natural Resources/Lands** | [ ]  **Trust Reform** |
| [x]  **Economic Development** | [ ]  **Human Resources** | [ ]  **TANF** | [ ]  **Veterans** |
| [ ]  **Education** | [ ]  **ICW**  | [x]  **Taxation** | [ ]  **Youth** |
| [ ]  **Energy**  | [ ]  **Internal. Affairs** | [ ]  **Telecommunication** | [ ]  **Other** |
| [ ]  **Gaming**  | [ ]  **Law & Justice** | [ ]  **TERO** |  |

**ATNI Committees** (please select at least one)

**Committee Chair**: Josh Gabel **Cell Phone**: Click or tap here to enter text.

**Committee Co-Chair**: Erin Ross **Cell Phone**: Click or tap here to enter text.