



2015 Annual Convention Spokane, Washington

RESOLUTION #15 - 60

"SUPPORT FOR DATA COLLECTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIRSTNET: A NATIONWIDE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK"

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, the ATNI Telecommunications Committee has been working to address the lack of access to infrastructure that provides high speed internet and cell phone coverage in rural native communities; and

WHEREAS, access to data is critical for various tribal interests including economic development, health, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, Washington OneNet must collect data in order for the federal First Responder Network Authority to produce a design that meets the needs of public safety in the state and for Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, Washington OneNet has contracted with Washington State University's (WSU) Division of Governmental Affairs to develop a data survey for tribal purposes that honors Tribal sovereignty, and protects the proprietary nature of tribal data by ensuring that only the responding Tribe and WSU will see the Tribe's data in an identifiable way; and

WHEREAS, ATNI Member Tribes have made significant progress this past year by working together to inform, educate and advocate on broadband and emergency responder needs to the leadership at the White House and the United States Congress, as well as State Representatives on how the lack of broadband coverage impacts Native Health and Social Services, Economic Development, Public Safety, Small Business Development, Governmental Services, and Emergency Management Services; and

WHEREAS, FirstNet is a project funded by Congress in 2012 through the Department of Commerce to build a nationwide public safety wireless Long Term Evolution (LTE) broadband data network to address the communications needs of First Responders; and

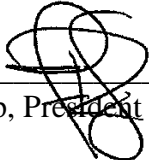
WHEREAS, the First Responder Network Authority or FirstNet is an independent agency within the federal Department of Commerce which is responsible to build the network; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI Tribal Tech Team has been working with Washington OneNet representatives by attending meetings as native representatives in order to understand the program goals and to also help provide outreach to other ATNI Member Tribes for the development of a First Responder Network; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby supports the efforts of Washington OneNet, FirstNet in Oregon, Idaho First Responder Net, Montana FirstNet and encourages tribal leaders, public safety responders, and IT professionals to participate in the collection of tribal data regarding current broadband coverage in support of the design for FirstNet that respects the sovereign needs of tribal nations.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Spokane, Washington on September 14-17, 2015, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary