



## 2010 Winter Conference Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, WA

### RESOLUTION #10 - 07

#### **“DEMAND FOR TRANSPARENCY, AND TIME TO FULLY INFORM INDIAN COUNTRY REGARDING COBELL V. SALAZAR SETTLEMENT TERMS”**

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

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians 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 parties to the long-standing case of *Cobell v. Salazar* in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia have announced they have reached a Settlement Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed settlement requires legislation by the U.S. Congress and approval by the court in order to be effective; and

**WHEREAS**, the Settlement Agreement reached by the parties on December 7, 2009 was binding only until December 31, 2009 unless authorizing legislation was enacted by that date, or unless the parties extended the expiration date by mutual agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress did not act by December 31, 2009 and the parties have subsequently extended the expiration date until February 28, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislation required to authorize the proposed settlement has yet to be introduced in Congress and referred to the Committees of Jurisdiction over Indian Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, no hearings have been held on the legislation required to authorize the settlement by the U.S. House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, no legislation to authorize the proposed settlement has been printed and made publicly available by either house of the U.S. Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, a representative of the Presidential Administration of President Obama has advised the 2010 Winter Conference of ATNI that she can only refer interested tribal leaders to the web site maintained by the plaintiffs for information on the settlement agreed to by the administration and plaintiffs; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is determined that a settlement of this magnitude demands transparency and time for Indian country to understand what is being proposed to extinguish all their fiscal and trust-related claims against the government; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby demand that the Congress of the United States conduct hearings to ensure that Indian country has time to consider the likely consequences, transparency, and fairness of the proposed legislation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department of Interior and the Cobell Plaintiffs conduct regional consultation with Indian Country to explain the proposed settlement and answer questions from affected Indian people.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington, February 8 - 11, 2010 with a quorum present.



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Brian Cladoosby, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary