**RESOLUTION # 19-02-04**

**Request that Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Establish a Food Sovereignty Sub-Committee**

**WHEREAS,** the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board {hereinafter "NPAIHB” or "Board" was established in 1972 to assist Tribal governments to improve the health status and quality of life of Indian people; and

**WHEREAS,** the NPAIHB is a "tribal organization" as defined by the Indian Self­ Determination and Education Assistance Act {P.L. 93-638 seq.et al) that represents forty-three federally recognized tribes in the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington; and

**WHEREAS,** in accordance with the definitions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act at 25 USC § 450b, a tribal organization is recognized as a governing body of any Indian tribe and includes any legally established organization of Indians which is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body or which is democratically elected by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by such organization and which includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities; and

**WHEREAS,** the NPAIHB is dedicated to assisting and promoting the health needs and concerns of Indian people; and

**WHEREAS,** the primary goal of the NPAIHB is to improve the health and quality of life of its member Tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** misguided federal policies have stripped tribal nations of land and access to healthy traditional foods; and

**WHEREAS,** as a result of these federal policies American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) face significant health disparities including higher rates of chronic diseases such as type II diabetes and cardiovascular disease compared to other populations; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need for Northwest Tribes to devise strategies and policy on food sovereignty; and

**WHEREAS**, food sovereignty strengthens agriculture, localizes food systems, improves economies, and improves the health and well-being of Native children, family and cultures; and

**WHEREAS,** the NPAIHB Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (NWTEC) received funding in 2014 to address chronic diseases through innovative and culturally-specific approaches and established WEAVE-NW; and

**WHEREAS, NPAIHB** WEAVE-NW serves as the backbone for the facilitation and coordination of the Northwest Tribal Food Sovereignty Coalition (Coalition); and

**WHEREAS,** the Coalition builds off the historical leadership from the Northwest Tribes in their involvement with traditional foods projects, restoration, and food sovereignty efforts; and

**WHEREAS,** NPAIHB has determined that there is a need beyond the Coalition to organize and institutionalize Northwest Tribal interests on food sovereignty at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI); and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI represents 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**, ATNI’s primary goals and objectives are focused on health safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no specific ATNI Sub-committee focused on food sovereignty, and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI Committees and Sub-committees function as a part of the information, policy development and support structure of ATNI for the benefit of member tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a need for a Food Sovereignty Sub-Committee under ATNI Natural Resources and/or Health Committees to increase the support for dissemination of information, and policy development including protocols and laws impacting the tribal food system; and

**WHEREAS,** an ATNI Food Sovereignty Sub-Committee would provide an opportunity for Northwest Tribal leaders to engage in dialogue with other tribes, organizations and decision makers to share information, discuss needs and issues, strategize, and develop regional and national policy.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the NPAIHB requests that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) establish a Food Sovereignty Sub-Committee under the Natural Resources and/or the Health Committee.