



## Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

### **2007 Annual Conference Ocean Shores, Washington**

#### **RESOLUTION #07 - 56**

#### **"SUPPORT OF H.R. 2262: HARDROCK MINING AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 2007"**

### **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**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1872 Mining Law prioritizes mining as the highest and best use of federal public lands resulting in federal land managers giving preference to mining over all other important land values including the protection of water, wildlife, forestry, fisheries, and recreational activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1872 mining law makes no consideration for the recognition and protection for the cultural, historical, treaty and spiritual relationship American Indians have with federal lands managed by the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, hardrock mining has resulted in significant impacts to tribal, cultural and natural resources throughout Western regions---polluting 40% of surface waterways and an undetermined amount of groundwater, depleting aquifers, springs and other water sources, as well as contaminating the land and the air, disrupting safe grazing areas, harming fisheries, displacing wildlife, and destroying important sacred sites; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1872 Mining Law contains no federal or tribal environmental standards or reclamation criteria, compounded by other federal laws not addressing specific impacts from mining; and

**WHEREAS**, there are over 50,000 abandoned mines in the U.S., many of which represent a threat to public safety and an on-going source of pollutions to the environments, resulting with many states and some tribes having to identify financial and technical resources to seek mine closure, reclamation and clean-up, and water treatment; and

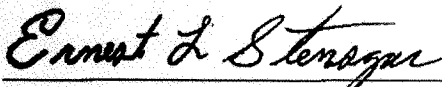
**WHEREAS**, there is no federal funding dedicated nor mandated for reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines; and

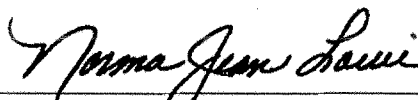
**WHEREAS**, the House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Costa (D-CA) have introduced H.R. 2262 to reform the 1872 Mining Law so it meets the needs of tribes and others in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI supports H.R. 2262---“The Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007”.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2007 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Quinault Beach Resort and Casino, Ocean Shores, Washington on September 20, 2007 with a quorum present.

  
Ernest L. Stensgar, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary