



AIANTA
American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATNI Signs Resolution of Support for AIANTA's Facilitation of the NATIVE Act

Albuquerque, New Mexico (February 9, 2017) – The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians has signed a resolution of support for the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act and the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) as its facilitator.

"AIANTA is honored to receive the support of ATNI for our facilitation of the NATIVE Act," said AIANTA Executive Director Camille Ferguson. "This impactful legislation will increase Native tourism and long-term economic viability throughout Indian Country, and AIANTA is eager to collaborate in its implementation unfold."

The NATIVE Act, enacted in 2016, supports the establishment of a more inclusive U.S. tourism strategy in order to expand economic opportunity to Native communities, create jobs, and elevate living standards in Indian Country. The bill also aims to empower Native Americans to tell their own stories, and define the scope of tourism activities on tribal lands, indigenous homelands, and in Native communities.

According to Ferguson, as the only national organization specifically dedicated to advancing Indian Country tourism all across the U.S., AIANTA is already accomplishing many of the goals set forth in the NATIVE Act.

The ATNI resolution supports implementation of the NATIVE Act with AIANTA as its facilitator to collaborate with tribes and federal agencies in carrying out the provisions of the NATIVE Act. According to the resolution, ATNI also supports federal funding of NATIVE Act mandates to create collaboration and coordination in all aspects of tourism between tribes and federal agencies, with AIANTA as the facilitator.

The Spokane Tribe and Spokane Tribal Council sponsored the Resolution on behalf of AIANTA during the ATNI Winter Convention. "I am proud to see my Tribe support AIANTA and its tribal tourism efforts," said Jamie Sijohn, member of the Spokane Tribe. "We're excited to see the positive impacts of this legislation on our tribal economies in the Northwest and throughout the country." Jamie is also one of AIANTA's Pacific Region Board Representative and Tribal Strategist at BHW1.



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About AIANTA:

The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit association of American Indian tribes, tribal tourism, cultural and private sector representatives, representatives from the tourism industry, Federal, State and local governments, colleges and universities, and friends that was incorporated in 2002 to advance Indian Country tourism. The association is made up of representatives from six regions: Alaska, Eastern, Midwest, Pacific, Plains and the Southwest. AIANTA's mission is to define, introduce, grow and sustain American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian tourism that honors traditions and values.

About ATNI:

ATNI is organized and chartered as a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation under the laws of the State of Oregon. The organization sets out its membership and operating policies within its Constitution and Bylaws and ATNI Policies & Procedures Manual. Authority for management of the affairs of ATNI are delegated to the Executive Council by the members and further delegated to the Executive Board, Committees, and Executive Director.

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