



**Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians  
2008 Annual Conference  
Pendleton, Oregon**

**RESOLUTION #08 - 64**

**“SUPPORTING LEGISLATION AND OTHER EFFORTS  
TO ESTABLISH SECURE, CONVENIENT MEDICINE RETURN PROGRAMS  
TO REDUCE HARMFUL PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS  
FROM UNWANTED MEDICINES”**

**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 the federal Trust Responsibility, 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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection, restoration, and enhancement of tribal First Foods—water, fish, wildlife and plants—are essential to maintain the perpetual cultural, economic, and sovereign rights and interests of Northwest native people; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal members throughout the region will continue to utilize the First Foods and to follow our traditional religious and cultural practices based on their use and enjoyment, recognizing the many health benefits they provide; and

**WHEREAS**, improper disposal of unwanted medicines in sewer systems and solid waste streams, creates significant risk of harm to tribal First Foods and therefore to tribal people; and

**WHEREAS**, wastewater treatment facilities do not completely treat unwanted medicines, allowing pharmaceuticals to be released into waterways where they may impact fish and other organisms (including sterilization of male fish); and

**WHEREAS**, unwanted medicines discarded as solid waste may end up in landfill leachate, which is pumped to wastewater treatment facilities or may leak into groundwater, allowing pharmaceuticals to be released into the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, pharmaceuticals have been detected in surface waters and in drinking water throughout the United States, affecting tens of millions of Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, pilot medicine return projects have been operating over the past two years and have successfully collected substantial amounts of unwanted household medicines, demonstrating the demand for and feasibility of such approaches; and


**WHEREAS**, pharmaceutical manufacturers currently operate and fund successful drug take-back systems in Canada and several countries in Europe; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians supports legislation and other efforts to establish convenient, safe, secure, and environmentally sound programs for the collection, transportation, and disposal of unwanted medications to reduce harmful public health and environmental impacts from improper disposal; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI encourages pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide the needed operational expertise and funding to assist in the establishment and maintenance of such take-back systems for unwanted medicines.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Wildhorse Casino in Pendleton, Oregon, on September 25, 2008, with a quorum present.

  
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President

  
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Secretary