



2023 Annual Convention Grand Mound, Washington

RESOLUTION #2023 – 52

“CALLING ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) TO BAN THE MANUFACTURING, PROCESSING, AND USE OF 6PPD IN TIRES”

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 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/Alaska Natives and tribes 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 tribes of ATNI are united by salmon and steelhead; and

WHEREAS, salmon are in crisis, with populations threatened by habitat destruction, warming waters, and toxic stormwater runoff; and

WHEREAS, N-(1,3-Dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine ("6PPD"), is used in the manufacture of tires as an antioxidant and antiozonant to prevent tire degradation; and

WHEREAS, 6PPD is transformed into 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q) by exposure to ozone, which is released into the environment in tire dust and tire fragments and conveyed to streams and rivers through stormwater runoff; and

WHEREAS, 6PPD-q is the second most toxic chemical to aquatic species ever evaluated by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, 6PPD-q is ubiquitous in urban runoff and surface waters; and

WHEREAS, 6PPD-q is acutely toxic to Coho salmon, rainbow trout, steelhead trout, and other aquatic organisms; and

WHEREAS, 6PPD-q has shown to be lethal to adult Coho salmon within hours of exposure; and

WHEREAS, 6PPD-q has been repeatedly found in the environment at concentrations above the recorded LC50 values for coho salmon, rainbow trout and steelhead; and

WHEREAS, the high toxicity and ubiquity of 6PPD-q released from 6PPD-containing tires presents an unreasonable risk to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the high toxicity and ubiquity of 6PPD-q presents an unreasonable risk to treaty rights and to tribal communities that rely on salmon and steelhead for cultural, subsistence and ceremonial purposes; and

WHEREAS, stormwater management measures cannot prevent 6PPD-q from entering the aquatic environment and harming salmon, steelhead, rainbow trout and other aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, the continued manufacturing, processing, and use of 6PPD in tires presents an unreasonable risk of injury to the environment because that use exposes aquatic organisms to levels of 6PPD-q that cause acute toxicity and mortality with severe population effects; and

WHEREAS, section 6(a) of the Toxics Substances Control Act requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to initiate rulemaking to adopt rulemaking measures to ensure 6PPD in tires no longer presents an unreasonable risk; and

WHEREAS, there is no safe level of 6PPD in tires and no warning or label requirements will eliminate the risk from tires using 6PPD because the formation and release of 6PPD-q is the intended, inherent and foreseeable result of using 6PPD in tires; and

WHEREAS, the Yurok Tribe, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Coquille Tribe, and the Puyallup Tribe have petitioned the EPA under the Toxics Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufacturing, processing, and use of 6PPD in tires; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI supports the petition by Yurok Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, Coquille Tribe and the Puyallup Tribe to EPA to ban the use of 6PPD in tires; and

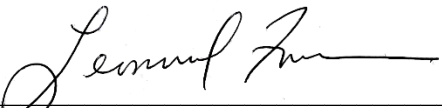
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls for EPA to ban the manufacturing, processing, and use of 6PPD in tires no later than January 1, 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Natural Resources Committee requests that the ATNI Executive Board follow up with a letter to EPA concerning this resolution; and


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the National Congress of American Indians.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington on September 18 - 21, 2023, with a quorum approving.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary