



Resolution in Support of Duwamish Tribal Recognition

Submitted by AFT Washington Human Rights Committee

Whereas, in 1979, U.S. District Judge George Boldt ruled that the Duwamish Tribe had not "continually maintained an organized tribal structure since their ancestors signed treaties with the United States in the 1850s," thereby resulting in the Duwamish not being formally recognized as a tribe by the Federal government, and

Whereas, in a relevant legal proceeding in 1996, it was established that Judge Boldt's 1979 decision was based on incomplete and erroneous evidence, and

Whereas, the chief legal obstacle to Federal recognition – the lack of evidence that the Duwamish maintained their tribal structure from 1915 to 1925 – has been surmounted with the help of careful historical research, resulting in brief Federal recognition in 2001, only to be revoked in 2002 by the Bush Administration, and

Whereas, among the signers of the January 22, 1855 Point Elliott treaty – in which the Duwamish relinquished 54,000 acres of their ancestral lands in exchange for benefits never provided – the Duwamish Tribe was listed first, and

Whereas, the Duwamish Tribe has approximately 600 enrolled members, some of whom can trace their ancestry directly to Chief Si'ahl ("Seattle"), and

Whereas, for these and other related reasons, the Duwamish Tribe is deserving of this Federal recognition, and

Whereas, there are complex and competing concerns generated around the issue of Duwamish Tribal recognition, and

Whereas, AFT Washington is a labor union committed to social justice, and an organization whose current office is located on ancestral Duwamish land, therefore be it

Resolved, that AFT Washington supports the Duwamish Tribe in its campaign to restore Federal recognition, and be it further

Resolved, that AFT Washington pledges to help and support creating and establishing Federal policies that are just and fair to all Puget Sound tribes and peoples.