



**In Support of Council FIRE and Solidarity with Native American, Native Indian,
Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian Workers**

Resolution #2025.17

WHEREAS, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO seeks to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the working people of all of America, through the democratic process within the framework of our constitutional government and consistent with our institutions and traditions. At the collective bargaining table, in the community, in the exercise of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, we shall responsibly serve the interests of all American people; and,

WHEREAS, the Washington State Labor Council and the AFL-CIO strive to always win the full respect for the dignity of the human individual whom our unions serve; and,

WHEREAS, the Washington State Labor Council affirms to be in solidarity with Indigenous peoples, communities, and their economic best interest; recognizing, Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities across our state in their struggle to assert their treaty rights, to achieve the recognition for their sovereign governments deserve to develop their communities' cultural and economic resources consistent with their needs and traditions; and,

WHEREAS, the Labor Movement in the United States has long known the importance of constituent engagement through the recognition of organized constituency groups whose missions include supporting workforce development, worker and member retention, retiree participation, worker mentorship, apprenticeships, internships and leadership within organizations reflective of their racial, gender, and sexual orientation identities, and to provide a voice at the table when decisions are made that impact their economic lives and worksites; and,

WHEREAS, acknowledgment of Indigenous workers is critical to building solidarity, mutual respect, and connection across social and class barriers; and,

WHEREAS, the WSLC has a practice of beginning events, in person and virtual, with a Tribal land acknowledgment and code of conduct review; inviting the WSLC organization and the labor community to inquire about and learn about fellow workers with Indigenous roots; building

solidarity; advancing progress for Indigenous workers and the communities in which work is being conducted; and,

WHEREAS, Council FIRE (First Inhabitants' Rights and Equality) is a body of Indigenous union members seeking recognition as a formal AFL-CIO constituency group, and would establish a space for Indigenous union members within WSLC affiliates to work collaboratively with their own and other Indigenous communities, and would provide a seat at the table for these worker-leaders, and,

WHEREAS, organized Labor, through research and educational initiatives, is integral within efforts to restore communities harmed by the systemic colonialism which underpinned the founding of the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, in 2017 WSLC passed Resolution 9 "In Support of Council FIRE and Solidarity With Native American Workers" and remains committed to investing in deeper, authentic partnerships with Indigenous communities through shared legislative, political, and community organizing efforts; now therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the WSLC will review and, if appropriate, adjust its strategies to educate the public and other constituency groups to better understand our region's history with respect to Indigenous people's ways and cultures, and to ensure the preservation of Native Indian, Native American, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, and other Indigenous people's cultures and ways of life; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the WSLC supports the National AFL-CIO's formal recognition of Council FIRE, and its importance to our broader movement due to its promotion of good wages, quality benefits, healthy work cultures, and the well-being of Indigenous people, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the WSLC will forward this resolution to the AFL-CIO for consideration; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, that the leadership of the WSLC will report back to this body at the 2026 Convention with an update on the progress made toward the aims of this resolution.