

18 – Tribal Relations and Sovereignty

Local, state, and federal governments must respect Native American nations on a sovereign government-to-government basis and must respect the decisions of Native American Nations, affirm their rights derived from treaties and state compacts, and oppose attempts to diminish their sovereignty and cultures.

We call for:

- Government recognition of the inherent sovereignty and treaty rights of Native American nations as self-determining and self-governing;
- Restoration of federal recognition for formerly recognized Tribes;
- Continued efforts to maintain and restore salmon runs and protect shellfish resources that are critical to Native American cultures and economies;
- The preservation, protection and restoration of sites of historic, cultural and religious significance;
- Local, state, and federal governments to help improve the social, economic, and health status of all Native American people to a level equivalent to that of other Americans;
- Educating the American public about the inherent and treaty-based rights of Native American nations, a step that is vital to civil and respectful relations between those nations and local communities and the United States;
- The promotion, restoration and protection of the rights of Native American people, with full respect for their cultural values, languages, traditions, and forms of social organization, whether or not they are recognized by the United States Government.