



**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS		
NUMBER	TITLE	CONVENTION ACTION
SPECIAL RECOGNITION		
12-01	IN HONOR OF CHARLES "TUMUNGNUK" JOHNSON	PASSED
12-02	IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR ALBERT SIKKIAGRUK ADAMS	PASSED
12-03	RECOGNIZING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY BY THE ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD	PASSED
BOARD RESOLUTIONS		
12-04	A RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO WORK WITH ALL ALASKA STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING AFN, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, VILLAGE AND REGIONAL CORPORATIONS, LOCAL BOROUGH GOVERNMENTS AND THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND ALL OF ALASKA'S CARRIERS IN REGARD TO REFORM OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND, TO ENSURE THE CREATION OF A ROBUST AND AFFORDABLE BROADBAND NETWORK IN ALASKA	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-05	REMOVING IMPEDIMENTS FROM ALASKA NATIVE AND RURAL STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP	PASSED
12-06	TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION EQUITY ACT AND UTILIZE ALL LEGISLATIVE TOOLS TO ENSURE THAT FUNDING IS ADMINISTERED BY ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE EDUCATION FOR ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH AND MAXIMIZE LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS IN SUCH EFFORTS	PASSED
12-07	TO AMEND THE ALASKA STATE CONSTITUTION TO RECOGNIZE ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE AND TRIBAL RIGHTS AND TO IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO ENSURE ALASKA NATIVES AND RURAL ALASKA ARE EQUITABLY REPRESENTED IN THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE	AMENDED AND PASSED

12-08	SUPPORT FOR THE BOARD OF FISH GENERATED PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ADD PACIFIC HERRING TO THE STATE OF ALASKA'S FORAGE FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN	TABLED
12-09	AMEND THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA) TO ALLOW ALASKA NATIVE ENTITIES TO OPERATE ESEA TRIBAL PROGRAMS	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-10	SUPPORTING THE DEFINITION OF "SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED" FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT TO PREVENT FURTHER OVERSEALOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES	PASSED
12-11	EXEMPTION FROM THE PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OR PURCHASE OF MIGRATORY BIRD PARTS (INCLUDING FEATHERS) FOR ALASKA NATIVE HANDICRAFTS	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-12	URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ENGAGE IN EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF THE ALL ALASKA ENERGY PROJECT AND TO COMMIT STATE RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING THIS PROJECT TO FREE ALL ALASKANS FROM THE CRIPPLING BURDEN OF EXPENSIVE ENERGY	PASSED
12-13	A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE FROM SEQUESTER, RESCISSION, AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN FY 2013 AND BEYOND	PASSED
12-14	A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS FOR TITLE VII OF THE ELEMENTARY AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT ESPECIALLY THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (ANEP) AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE FROM SEQUESTER, RESCISSION, AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN FY 2013 AND BEYOND	PASSED

12-15	A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE AND OTHER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE FROM SEQUESTER, RESCISSION, AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN FY 2013 AND BEYOND	PASSED
	SUBSISTENCE	
12-16	A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO ALLOW ONLINE MOOSE HARVEST REPORTING	PASSED
12-17	SUPPORTING THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AND THE STATE OF ALASKA'S EFFORTS TO ENACT DISASTER DECLARATION FOR CHINOOK SALMON THROUGHOUT VARIOUS SALMON MANAGEMENT AREAS TO INCLUDE THE ARCTIC YUKON KUSKOKWIM REGION (AYK), KODIAK, AND THE COOK INLET REGIONS AND FURTHER DIRECTION OF FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS TO VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE AYK SUSTAINABLE SALMON INITIATIVE	PASSED
12-18	CALLING FOR A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT HEARING ON SELF-DETERMINATION, INCLUDING ALASKA NATIVE HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-19	REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO FUND ESSENTIAL RESEARCH ON DISASTROUSLY DECLINING SALMON STOCKS THROUGH THE SUSTAINABLE SALMON INITIATIVE	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-20	REDUCTION OF CHINOOK, CHUM AND SALMON SPECIES BY-CATCH IN THE BERING SEA AND GULF OF ALASKA POLLOCK FISHERY AND IN THE RUSSIAN ECONOMIC ZONE	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-21	ELDERS 65 YEARS AND OVER EXEMPTION FROM SUBSISTENCE RESTRICTIONS AND CLOSURES	AMENDED AND PASSED
	HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE	
12-22	A RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO INCREASE HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING AND INCLUDING ADDITIONAL HIP FUNDING IN THE AMERICAN JOBS BILL	AMENDED AND PASSED

12-23	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE, AND PETITIONING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ALASKA NATIVE RESIDENTS' CONTINUED ACCESS TO THESE PROGRAMS AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES	PASSED
12-24	CALL TO ACTION TO CREATE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TRIBAL & COMMUNITY AGENCIES TO ORGANIZE, MAKE DECISIONS, AND FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS TO REVIVE, STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO PREVENT SUICIDE BY UTILIZING TRADITIONAL MODALITIES AND THERAPEUTIC MODELS AS APPROPRIATE OR ADOPTED BY EACH COMMUNITY	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-25	A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO RETURN POWER COST EQUALIZATION (PCE) TO THE 1998 LEVEL	PASSED
12-26	IN SUPPORT OF EXPEDITIOUS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REAUTHORIZING THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA) ACT OF 1996 AND FULL FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA) 2013 & 2014 FISCAL YEAR FUNDING	PASSED
12-27	A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT FROM SEQUESTER, RESCISSION, AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN FY 2013 AND BEYOND	PASSED
	LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES	
12-28	SUPPORT OF ACTIVE SALMON REHABILITATION INCLUDING HABITAT NUTRIENT ENRICHMENT	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-29	A RESOLUTION MANDATING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA RECOGNIZE THE LAND OWNED BY ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS AS PRIVATE LAND	PASSED
	ECONOMIC	
12-30	URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FUND INDIRECT COSTS FOR CONTRACTS/GRANTS AT GRANTEE AGENCIES' FEDERALLY APPROVED INDIRECT COST RATES	PASSED

12-31	A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA FUND THE DENALI COMMISSION TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM	PASSED
12-32	SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL POSTAL SERVICES TO ALASKA VILLAGES	PASSED
12-33	ESTABLISHING FUNDING AN ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND FUNDING PRIORITY FOR RURAL ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	PASSED
12-34	A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR PARNELL AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE ALASKA RURAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE TELEVISION NETWORK IS FUNDED TO CONVERT TO DIGITAL SERVICE	PASSED
12-35	SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S RECENT CHANGE IN INTERPRETATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 636(j)(11)(B)(iii)(II)	PASSED
	OTHER	
12-36	A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION	PASSED
12-37	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)	PASSED
12-38	REQUESTING THE REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE YUKON RIVER SALMON TREATY TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR LOW-CHINOOK SALMON PRODUCTIVITY YEARS	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-39	A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES AMEND THE BYLAWS OF THE CORPORATION TO SET AFN CO-CHAIR TERM LIMITS, LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE TERMS SERVED AND IMPLEMENT STAGGERED ELECTION YEARS	AMENDED AND PASSED
	ANSCA/TRIBAL	
12-40	AMENDMENT TO SECTION 14(c)(1) of ANCSA ADDING A "SUNSET CLAUSE" FOR ALL 14(c)(1) CLAIMANTS	PASSED
12-41	CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-TRIBAL AND ALASKA NATIVE FISH COMMISSIONS	AMENDED AND PASSED
12-42	PRIOR CONTAMINATION OF LANDS CONVEYED PURSUANT TO ANCSA	AMENDED AND PASSED

12-43	GIFTING OF ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT STOCK	PASSED
12-44	EXPANDING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL EDUCATION AND LOCAL PROGRAMS	PASSED



**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

RESOLUTION 12-01

TITLE: IN HONOR OF CHARLES "TUMUNGNUK" JOHNSON

WHEREAS: Charles Johnson, "Tumungnuk" (he who has it together), known as Charlie by many, was born in White Mountain, on December 9, 1939, to Frank and Marcella Johnson; and

WHEREAS: Charlie moved with his family in 1944 to Nome, and later Kodiak, where he graduated from Kodiak High School in 1958. He attended Washington State University from 1961-1964 on an athlete scholarship in boxing; after taking a year off to travel in Europe, he returned to the states and graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in Business Administration and Math; and

WHEREAS: In 1976, Charlie moved with his wife Brenda and their children to Nome, where he spent much of the rest of his life ensuring that other Alaska Natives would be able to continue to engage in their customary and traditional hunting, fishing and gathering way of life; and

WHEREAS: Charlie was a born scientist, and as such worked with numerous agencies gathering and evaluating data relating to Arctic wildlife and environmental issues. During the course of his career, he held numerous science-related positions, including Advisor to the Marine Mammal Commission; Commissioner on the US Arctic Research Commission; Circumpolar Arctic Research Chair of the Alaska Native Science Commission; appointments to the Alaska Science Review Group, National Marine Fisheries Service; U.S. Delegation to the Arctic Council and member, CAFF Working Group of the International Arctic Social Science Committee; and

WHEREAS: Charlie led the fight, on behalf of the Native community in 1994 to preserve the Native exemption in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and to include Section 119, which provides a co-management role for Alaska Native organizations in the management of the subsistence harvest of marine mammals; and

WHEREAS: Charlie took the lead for the Native community in negotiating the "Umbrella Agreement" with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Fish and

Wildlife Service in 1997, which provided guidance for Alaska Native Organizations wishing to enter into meaningful co-management agreements with the agencies pursuant to Section 119 of the MMPA; and

WHEREAS: Charlie was instrumental in organizing the Eskimo Walrus Commission (EWC) in 1978, the Indigenous Peoples Council for Marine Mammals (IPCoMM) in the early 1990's and the Nanuuq Commission in 1994; his model was used in the subsequent formation of the Alaska Sea Otter Commission in 1988 and the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission in 1995; Charlie served as the Executive Director, of the Eskimo Walrus Commission, and most recently, the Nanuuq Commission, representing Alaska Native villages in the Arctic on matters regarding polar bears; and

WHEREAS: Charlie also served as President of Kawarak, Inc. from 1976-1983, he was elected to the Board of Bering Straits Native Corporation in 1979, served as its President from 1983-1988, and remained on the Board through 2006. Charlie also served as Chairman of the Alaska Federation of Natives from 1981-1983; and at the time of his death he was the Chairman of the Board of White Mountain Native Corporation, where he had served since the early 1980's; and

WHEREAS: Those who knew Charlie will remember his lifetime of work on behalf of Alaska Natives. His credentials, titles, positions and actions are a testament to his unending devotion to his people, the land, and the Native way of life; and

WHEREAS: Among his many accomplishments, was his advocacy for the re-establishment of free travel for Native people between Alaska and Chukotka, Russia; he served under the U.S. State Department as the Chief Commissioner overseeing Visa free travel between the U.S. and Russia; and

WHEREAS: Another of his many successes in developing relations between government and non-governmental agencies across the Bering Strait was the recent signing of the U.S. Russia Treaty on the Conservation of Chukchi Polar Bears, which was based on a Native to Native Agreement between Alaska Natives and the Indigenous groups within the Chuckchi Region; the agreement, for the first time in 60 years gave the Natives of Chukotka the opportunity to harvest polar bears for subsistence and allowed for their meaningful participation in resource management; the significance of the bilateral effort for Native hunters in both countries stands as a testament to Charlie's dedication to preserving the traditions and rights of the people he represented; and

WHEREAS: Charlie was an advocate for indigenous rights to resources and Native self-determination; he placed great emphasis on traditional ecological knowledge, while also embracing new technologies and incorporating new areas or scientific inquiry, with the vision that one day traditional ecological knowledge would be considered as an equal to pure scientific data; and

WHEREAS: Charlie will be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather to his family, and a mentor, a friend, a partner to countless others who shared a laugh with him, worked with him and remember and pay tribute to him; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN recognizes and honors Charles "Tumungnaq" Johnson for his lifetime of accomplishments and contributions to the Indigenous peoples of Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA NATIVE HARBOR SEAL COMMISSION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-02

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

Title:

IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR ALBERT SIKKIAGRUK ADAMS

WHEREAS: Albert Sikkiagruk Adams, fondly known by most everyone as "Al", was born to Sarah Seeberger and Frank Scott in Kotzebue, Alaska on June 18, 1942; and

WHEREAS: Al was raised in Kotzebue living a subsistence lifestyle and was blessed with siblings Adra Distefano, Sarah Scanlan, Darlene "Red" Seeberger and the late Vicky Bartholme. He graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska in 1961. He not only excelled academically but served as the Mt. Edgecumbe Braves boys basketball team manager. As with many students who attend Mt. Edgecumbe, Al developed a profound and long lasting bond with his fellow classmates from around the state, many of whom he remained close friends with for decades. Following high school, he attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks and RCA Technical Institute in California; and

WHEREAS: Al served as a catalyst for his entire family and his number one priority was devotion to his wife Diane; children Albert, Jr., Guy, Herbert, Michelle, Bart and Luke; and his ten grandchildren. Al took great pride and joy in subsistence hunting and fishing with his children, teaching them the Inupiaq skills he learned in his lifetime so they may also utilize and pass on the ways of their People to their children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS: Al had a big, caring heart for those down on their luck, and he was a generous philanthropist on a private level. He believed in providing for those less fortunate by sharing a few dollars with strangers and friends alike on the street or buying them a meal, and during the holidays sending boxes of turkeys to Beans Café and money for goody bags at the Friends Church; and

WHEREAS: With his trademark smile, his Inupiaq humor, amazing wit and tireless energy, Al's lifelong commitment to improving the quality of life for the Inupiat people of northern Alaska involved working as president of Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation, executive vice president of NANA Regional Corporation and director of Rural Development at the Department of Community and Regional

Affairs. He also served on numerous boards of directors, including the Alaska Airlines Advisory Board, the Alaska Native Claims Appeals Board, Arctic Power, Mt. Edgecumbe High School and NANA; and

WHEREAS: A man of service, Al served in the Alaska House of Representatives from 1981 to 1988, during which time he represented the north slope and northwest regions. He served in the State Senate from 1989 to 1994, representing the Bering Straits region in addition to the regions to the north. As chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee in the 1990s, he fought to ensure the State of Alaska fulfilled its responsibilities to rural Alaska and Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: Al's political legacy lives on throughout the state in programs and capital improvements that touch Alaskans' lives each day. He championed the creation of the Power Cost Equalization Program to make energy affordable across all of Alaska, and maintained a critical commitment to the continuing success of his alma mater, Mt. Edgecumbe High School, for the valuable opportunities it provides Alaska Native students to develop into strong, rooted members of the greater Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: In 2003, Al began a new career as a lobbyist to continue to promote the interests of communities and causes he believed in. He thrived on working across party lines and interests to achieve the goals of his clients. In September 2012, Shore Avenue in Kotzebue was christened "Sikkiagruk Shore Avenue" in recognition of Al's hard work to ensure the sea wall and paving was funded and completed in order to protect the city of Kotzebue from the waves and ice that would otherwise rapidly erode the small peninsula Kotzebue is located on making it uninhabitable in short order. The Maniilaq Association's Kotzebue health clinic will also be dedicated to Senator Adams to honor his effort to ensure the people of Kotzebue receive quality health care right in their home community; and

WHEREAS: Al Sikkiagruk Adams was a man who could make every person in a packed room feel welcome, special and of value. He will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to his family, for his service to his constituents and for his tireless work to ensure the State of Alaska fulfilled its responsibility to Alaska Native people and rural Alaska as a whole.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN recognizes and honors Al Sikkiagruk Adams for his lifetime of accomplishments and contributions to Alaska Native peoples and to all Alaskans.

SUBMITTED BY: NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION and MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

RESOLUTION 12-03

- TITLE:** RECOGNIZING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY BY THE ALASKA NATIVE BROTHERHOOD
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. (AFN) is the recognized voice of the Alaska Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** The AFN is comprised of all the Native organizations, including Alaska Native for-profit corporations, tribal non-profit organizations, and tribes; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Brotherhood was formed in 1912 and is the oldest American Indian organizations in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** The Territory of Alaska supported and allowed discriminatory practices towards Alaska Natives and unequal benefits for Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives were not allowed to vote until 1922; and
- WHEREAS:** A women's auxiliary to the Alaska Native Brotherhood was formed in 1914 which became a separate, related entity, the Alaska Native Sisterhood in 1926; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood organized community camps in Southeast Alaska, Southcentral Alaska, Western, and Northwestern Alaska to secure Native civil rights and to seek the settlement of aboriginal land claims; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood were successful in obtaining the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 in the Alaska Territorial Legislature; and
- WHEREAS:** Through the initial efforts of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood, a monetary land settlement was awarded to the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tlingit and Haida Central Council was able to use its funds to offer a loan to the AFN to support the land claims effort that resulted in the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. recognize and honor the 100-year anniversary of service of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, whose continued dedication and contributions include obtaining citizenship rights for Alaska Natives, securing the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act, and supporting the land claims effort through the Alaska Federation of Natives; and

BE IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives shall send copies of this Special Recognition resolution to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, State of Alaska, Alaska Senator Albert Kookesh, Alaska Representative Bill Thomas, and to all members of the Bush Caucus of the Alaska State Legislature.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



BOARD RESOLUTIONS



**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-04

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO WORK WITH ALL ALASKA STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING AFN, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, VILLAGE AND REGIONAL CORPORATIONS, LOCAL BOROUGH GOVERNMENTS AND THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND ALL OF ALASKA'S CARRIERS IN REGARD TO REFORM OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND, TO ENSURE THE CREATION OF A ROBUST AND AFFORDABLE BROADBAND NETWORK IN ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** Although most of rural Alaska is geographically remote, Alaskan member Tribes and the people who live in remote communities are as reliant on telecommunication services including broadband as any other Americans, and in fact more so because telecommunications are critical for provided health services, emergency response, and similar services in remote areas without roads; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Universal Service includes mandates to provide specific and predictable support mechanisms, reasonable and affordable rates, and access to "advanced services" for rural and high cost areas, as well as for rural schools, libraries, and healthcare providers; and
- WHEREAS:** Funding from the Universal Service Fund (USF) is critical to the construction, maintenance, and operation of existing and future telecommunications networks in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** On November 11, 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released the "USF/ICC Transformation Order & FNPRM" and began a new series of reforms to modernize USF; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Congressional Delegation has held Congressional hearings on these USF reforms and has expressed, on the record and with one voice, that these reforms will adversely impact existing and future broadband deployment in Alaska.

WHEREAS: The Alaska Congressional Delegation has sent several letters and made numerous calls to the Chairman of the FCC, and to all of its Commissioners advocating on behalf of all Alaska, but especially rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Congressional Delegation has hosted the Chairman of the FCC and most of the new Commissioners as they toured and learned about the challenges in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Alaska is the “last frontier” of broadband deployment and faces a highly unique combination of challenges, which includes, but is not limited to harsh climate, remoteness, scattered and sparse populations, high fuel costs, challenging topography, minimum roads, a short construction season, and a lack of middle mile infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: Much of rural Alaska is either unserved or underserved insofar as broadband deployment is concerned; and

WHEREAS: Today’s programmers are designing tomorrow’s applications for tomorrow’s bandwidth, and as a result the status quo (or slight improvements to the status quo) are not enough for broadband in Alaska because the programs will always be designed for faster bandwidth that is not available in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: While the FCC claims to “take into account the unique conditions in places like Alaska,” unfortunately, to this point in time, this added attention has not produced outcomes that do in fact take into account Alaska’s unique conditions; and

WHEREAS: Much of rural Alaska is comprised Alaska Natives, who by law, are entitled to telecommunication services, including broadband, that are comparable in both price and speed that the service delivered to their urban counterparts; and

WHWERAS: The FCC is required by Executive Order 13175 to engage in “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that, AFN urges the FCC to not just listen to, but to collectively work with all of the Alaska stakeholders, including AFN, tribal organizations, and village and regional corporations and local borough governments and the Alaska Congressional Delegation, and all of Alaska’s carriers, to ensure the creation of a robust broadband network in Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the FCC to ensure that these USF reforms will not create a situation where large areas of Alaska are left unserved or underserved by broadband, where broadband prices are unaffordable to the general public and speeds in rural areas are not reasonably comparable to urban areas, and where the residents of rural Alaska are not afforded the same broadband opportunities as their urban counterparts.

SUBMITTED BY: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
AND BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-05

- TITLE:** REMOVING IMPEDIMENTS FROM ALASKA NATIVE AND RURAL STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE ALASKA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP
- WHEREAS:** The aboriginal cultures of our many Alaska Native villages are one of the great and unique treasures of the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The preservation, continuation, and enhancement of these cultures are important to Alaska Natives, all Alaskans, the State, the Nation, and the world as a whole; and
- WHEREAS:** Educating Alaska Native children in the village honors an Alaskan way of life that has existed for thousands of years; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives have the fundamental right to choose to live in a village or a city, and having our youth live in strong villages allows them learn from our elders, thereby benefiting the children, the adults, and all Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native students learn in a variety of places, from small rural schools in the villages, to large urban schools in the cities, and distant boarding academies; and
- WHEREAS:** Each type of school has its own strengths and weaknesses though rural Village schools often are not provided the same resources as urban schools, they teach things that urban ones do not and they permit our youth to remain with their families and help ensure the continued vitality of our people, our homes, and our cultures; and
- WHEREAS:** Regardless of where one attends school, education is the foundation of opportunities for Alaska Natives and for all peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** Quality education should therefore be available to all who want it; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives have suffered discrimination and disparities in education, which, as recognized by the courts, has persisted to today; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) is one means by which the Governor, his Administration, and the Alaska Legislature have tried to support higher education and increase opportunities; and

WHEREAS: APS recognizes the importance of an excellent and accessible education and encourages high school students to take a broad and deep curriculum; and

WHEREAS: Students' eligibility for the APS is therefore based on the breadth and depth of their school's curriculum; and

WHEREAS: Urban schools, with their greater number of teachers and their larger budgets, may more easily offer a diverse curriculum than schools in the villages; and

WHEREAS: Students who attend schools that lack the resources to offer an expansive curriculum, such as many schools in the villages, are not eligible for the APS; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native students in large urban high schools are often counseled out of the classes that they need to obtain the APS; and

WHEREAS: The State's 2012 APS Outcomes Report demonstrates that Alaska Native and rural students are disproportionately ineligible for the APS; and

WHEREAS: To improve Alaska Natives' education and opportunities, and to reduce Alaska Natives' academic disparities and social inequities, more resources should be devoted to rural schools and the APS should be modified to ensure that Alaska Natives are no longer forced to choose between furthering their education or honoring their traditions; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. (AFN), that AFN works with the Governor, his Administration, and the Alaska Legislature to improve the Alaska Performance Scholarship to make quality higher education equally available to all Alaskans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN partner with individuals, groups, and other organizations that also believe in educational equality to remove impediments to the Alaska Performance Scholarship ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN explore options to remove these impediments, such as increased funding to rural schools; fostering quality distance-based learning; the establishment of travelling local, intensive, short-term academies to teach classes that rural schools lack; or, if it were to become necessary, litigation to ensure that these goals are met; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that in the interim period, while efforts are implemented to remove the above identified impediments, that Alaska Federation of Natives urge the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor of Alaska to allocate Alaska Performance Scholarships equitably among all Alaska High School graduating classes based on the number of graduates, with no less than one (1) scholarship for each high school.

SUMMITTED: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-06

TITLE: TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION EQUITY ACT AND UTILIZE ALL LEGISLATIVE TOOLS TO ENSURE THAT FUNDING IS ADMINISTERED BY ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE EDUCATION FOR ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH AND MAXIMIZE LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS IN SUCH EFFORTS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Education Equity Act was enacted by Congress in 2002 and provides approximately \$33 million per year in funding for programs across the State that address the needs of Alaska Native students—from early childhood education to secondary school preparation programs; and

WHEREAS: The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) does not contribute funds to the education of Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Education Equity Act authorizes the use of funds under the Act for the development of curriculum and educational programs that reflect and are aligned with the cultural diversity, language and contributions of Alaska Native people and for other supplemental educational programs that support Alaska Native college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Educational Equity Act states that it is the policy of the Federal Government to encourage maximum participation by Alaska Native people in the planning and management of Alaska Native Education programs; and

WHEREAS: The Act also authorizes the Department of Education to fund programs under this act administered by Alaska Native Organizations, educational entities and cultural and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS: Assessments of grant funding reflects the following:

- Fewer awards granted to Alaska Native Organizations
- More awards to school districts, University of Alaska, and other organizations, and

- Alaska Native Organizations may be identified as “Partners” with school districts, University of Alaska, or other organizations, but in actuality have little to no control or oversight of the grant development, implementation, and programs; and

WHEREAS: School Districts and Universities have access to other funding for which Alaska Native Organization are ineligible to apply; and

WHEREAS: The Act specifically prioritizes funding for Alaska Native regional nonprofit organizations or consortia that include such Alaska Native organizations; and

WHEREAS: Native Cultures and Languages have been documented to serve as resilience factors in youth, and inclusion of such content in meaningful ways can support academic success; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native corporations, organizations, and tribes throughout the State of Alaska are working to improve Native Education through intentional and strategic programs that utilize culturally relevant curricula; and

WHEREAS: Over the last ten years, Alaska Native Organizations have successfully demonstrated that they can provide programs that improve academic performance of Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Organizations, working in partnerships with Schools, Universities, or other Organizations as the lead can ensure the success of Alaska Native students; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the continuation of Alaska Native Education Equity Act funding in order to meet the dire needs of Alaska Native students, and urges the Alaska delegation to pursue every means possible to ensure inclusion and continuation of the Alaska Native Education Equity Act in the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and to ensure that sufficient funding for the program is appropriated and authorized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Federation of Natives further urges Congress to take action to ensure that grants funded by the Alaska Native Educational Equity

Program are administered through Alaska Native Organizations and as lead grantees with partners, and that the Department of Education consults with Alaska Native Organizations to identify programmatic priority areas for future funding.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-07

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

TO AMEND THE ALASKA STATE CONSTITUTION TO RECOGNIZE ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE AND TRIBAL RIGHTS AND TO IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO ENSURE ALASKA NATIVES AND RURAL ALASKA ARE EQUITABLY REPRESENTED IN THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Constitution was adopted to recognize the citizens of the state as a homogenous population without regard to the rich cultural diversity of the state's indigenous population or their special legal and political status as American Indians that is recognized by the federal government; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Constitution fails to recognize the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of Alaska Native societies as the indigenous population of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Constitution fails to recognize the tribal and sovereign rights of federally-recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Constitution provides for equal access to Alaska's wildlife resources without regard to recognition of federal laws that recognize Alaska Native subsistence rights and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act that provides for a rural subsistence priority; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Constitution provides for the establishment of forty house districts, with each House district to elect one member of the House of Representatives and twenty Senate districts, each composed of two House districts, with each Senate district to elect one senator; and

WHEREAS: The Redistricting Board 2012 reapportionment of the House of Representatives and the Senate following the official reporting of the 2010 decennial census of the United States based upon the population within each House and Senate district as reported by the official decennial census of the United States may ultimately result in a decreased number of Native and rural legislators; and

WHEREAS: The failure to recognize the cultural and linguistic diversity of Alaska Native populations; the failure to recognize the subsistence rights and priorities of Alaska Natives; the failure to recognize the tribal rights and sovereignty of Alaska Native tribes; and the failure to provide for equitable representations of Natives and rural legislators undermines the rights of Alaska Natives to maintain their

language, culture, subsistence way life, tribal rights and sovereignty, and full and equitable representation of Alaska Natives in the Alaska State Legislature; and

WHEREAS: Article 13 of the Alaska Constitution allows for the amendment of the state constitution in the following ways:

- Constitutional amendment can be accomplished via a legislatively-referred constitutional amendment. Placing such a proposed amendment on the ballot must be approved by a two-thirds vote of each chamber of the Alaska State Legislature.
- Alaska votes on constitutional amendments (1974) stipulates that amendments can only be voted on in general elections
- The constitution can also be amended via a constitutional convention via the following:
 - An automatic ballot referral to ask the voters of the state whether they wish to convene a statewide constitutional convention must be placed on the statewide ballot every ten years; and
 - The state legislature may call a constitutional convention whenever they wish; and

WHEREAS: The Lt. Governor will place a call on the November 2012 general election ballot to convene a constitutional convention; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Alaska Federation of Natives meeting in its 2012 Annual Convention urges the AFN Board of Directors, the AFN President, the AFN membership and the general public to vote in the 2012 general election in favor of convening a constitutional convention to amend the Alaska constitution:

- to recognize the cultural and linguistic diversity of Alaska Natives;
- to recognize Alaska Native tribal and sovereign rights;
- to recognize Alaska Native subsistence rights; and
- to expand the state legislature to ensure that Alaska Natives and rural Alaska are represented in the Alaska State Legislature.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention urge the Alaska State Legislature to amend the constitution via a legislatively-referred

constitutional amendment if the vote on convening a constitutional convention fails to pass to recognize the cultural and linguistic diversity of Alaska Natives; to recognize Alaska Native tribal and sovereign rights; to recognize Alaska Native plus rural subsistence rights; and to expand the state legislature to ensure that Alaska Natives and rural Alaska are represented in the Alaska State Legislature.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-08

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR THE BOARD OF FISH GENERATED PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ADD PACIFIC HERRING TO THE STATE OF ALASKA'S FORAGE FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN
- WHEREAS:** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) represents 178 villages (both federally recognized tribes and village corporations) 13 regional Native corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortia; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN's mission is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska Native Community; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN advocates for the protection of subsistence rights and resources; and
- WHEREAS:** Pacific herring and herring eggs have been an integral part of the Native culture throughout the State of Alaska since time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS:** Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) are considered an ecological and cultural keystone species; and
- WHEREAS:** Pacific herring are forage fish that are prey to upper trophic level fish and marine mammals that Alaska Natives depend upon for subsistence; and
- WHEREAS:** throughout the world biologist recognize Pacific herring as a forage fish species that play a crucial function in maintaining the health of the world's marine ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS:** the State of Alaska's Board of Fish recognizes that, "forage fish perform a critical role in the complex marine ecosystem by providing the transfer of energy from the primary and secondary producers to higher trophic levels" (5 AAC 39.212(b)); and
- WHEREAS:** the State of Alaska has failed to acknowledge herring as a forage fish by listing Pacific herring under its Forage Fish Management Plan (5 ACC 39.212); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in recognition of the crucial role herring play in the marine ecosystem and the Native culture of Alaska, the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the State of Alaska to support and implement the Board of Fish generated proposal to have herring added to the State of Alaska's Forage Fish Management Plan.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: TABLED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-09

ALASKA FEDERATION

OF NATIVES

TITLE: AMEND THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA) TO ALLOW ALASKA NATIVE ENTITIES TO OPERATE ESEA TRIBAL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is currently up for reauthorization and is the most important federal education law that applies to Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS: The ESEA authorizes approximately \$25-29 billion in federal education funding every year, of which the vast majority goes directly to state education agencies (SEAs) that Alaska tribes, Alaska Native Organizations, and Alaska Native Corporations are excluded from receiving; and

WHEREAS: This structure circumvents Alaska Native tribes, Alaska Native Organizations and Alaska Native Corporations and does not allow Natives to meaningfully participate in the education of their citizens in public schools; and

WHEREAS: All ESEA programs could do more to help Alaska Native students by recognizing and enhancing the role of Alaska Native tribes, Alaska Native Organizations and Alaska Native Corporations in public school education; and

WHEREAS: Native Peoples are in the best position to address the unique needs of Native students because we know our children and communities best; and

WHEREAS: The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), and the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) have all passed resolutions in support of a proposed pilot project designed to increase tribal authority in public schools through the ESEA reauthorization; and

WHEREAS: The pilot project would authorize tribes to operate ESEA title programs in schools located on Indian lands serving Native students; and

WHEREAS: The proposal includes Alaska Native villages, regional corporations, and village corporations and allows these entities to be eligible for the pilot project; and

WHEREAS: The proposal will include language related to Indian lands that meets the unique circumstances in Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports enhancing the role of tribes, Alaska Native organizations and Alaska Native Corporations in the education of Alaska Native students in public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the tribal education agency pilot project provided that the definition of "Indian Tribe" is amended to

include Alaska Native villages, regional corporations, and village corporations for the purposes of this pilot program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the tribal education agency pilot project, provided that the definition of "Tribal Education Agency" is amended to recognize the unique Alaska context as follows: The term "Tribal education agency" means an authorized governmental agency of an American Indian tribe, an Alaska Native tribe, or tribal organizations (as defined in 25 U.S.C. §450b) that is primarily responsible for regulating, administering, or supervising the formal education of tribal members. "Tribal education agency" includes tribal education departments, tribal divisions of education, tribally sanctioned education authorities, tribal education administrative planning and development agencies, tribal education agencies, tribal administrative education entities, and Alaska Native organizations operating education programs for Alaska Native students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the definition of "Indian lands" be amended to include "municipal schools in Alaska cities where the Alaska Native/American Indian population is greater than 5,000, according to the U.S. Census, or where Alaska Native students constitute at least 10% of the student population"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges Congress to pass this provision as part of the ESEA reauthorization and include Alaska Native tribes, Alaska Native Organizations and Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska lands and Alaska Native students as eligible for the pilot project.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2012 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-10

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES
TITLE:

SUPPORTING THE DEFINITION OF “SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED” FOR THE PURPOSES OF SEA OTTER HANDICRAFT IN THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT TO PREVENT FURTHER OVERSEALOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES

WHEREAS: The Indigenous People’s Council for Marine Mammals is a coalition of Native organizations formed for the purpose of identifying and addressing marine mammal issues of common concern; and

WHEREAS: The Indigenous People’s Council for Marine Mammals has identified the regulatory language of “significantly altered” used by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as vague and ambiguous; and

WHEREAS: The Marine Mammal Protection Act was made law in 1972 prohibiting the take, import, and export of marine mammals by United States citizens; and

WHEREAS: Section 101(b) was included in the Marine Mammal Protection Act to exempt coastal Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimo’s from these take prohibitions for subsistence and handicraft purposes; and

WHEREAS: The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 includes the language “significantly altered” which has not been clearly defined and continues to be problematic for artists who wish to make a living through the sale of their handicrafts as which was originally intended by the Act; and

WHEREAS: The indigenous residents of coastal communities have shared a close relationship with marine mammals for over 10,000 years as an essential element of the diet, social fabric, economy, and cultural well-being; and

WHEREAS: The production of Marine Mammal handicrafts, garments or art whether traditional or contemporary, can be a significant revenue source for Alaska Natives who live in economically depressed communities; and

WHEREAS: Cultural traditions and knowledge are in danger of being lost due to these unclear definitions; and

WHEREAS: The term “significantly altered” is not clearly defined by US Fish and Wildlife Service, leaving Alaska Natives and consumers of Native handicrafts, produced from sea otter, fearing that the items they buy and sell could be considered illegal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. petition the Secretary of Interior and the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to adopt the language clarifying “significantly altered” for the purposes of sea otter handicrafts, upon concurrence by IPCOMM, as follows: consider a marine mammal product to be “significantly altered” when it is no longer recognizable as a whole hide. This includes 1) a tanned hide, devoid of head, feet, and tail which includes but is not limited to weaving, carving, stitching, sewing, lacing, beading, drawing, painting, other decorative fashions, or made into another material or medium, or 2) a tanned head, tail, feet or other part devoid of the remainder of the hide which is made into a handicraft using one the aforementioned processes.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2012 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-11

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** EXEMPTION FROM THE PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OR PURCHASE OF MIGRATORY BIRD PARTS (INCLUDING FEATHERS) FOR ALASKA NATIVE HANDICRAFTS
- WHEREAS:** In 1916 the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) signed a treaty that prohibited “market” hunting of migratory birds, and specified a closed season on taking migratory game birds between March 10 and September 1 of each year; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1936, the United States signed a treaty with Mexico that imposed the same closed season, but allowed for the traditional harvest of migratory birds by northern Alaska Native people during the spring and summer months; and
- WHEREAS:** These treaties, as well as other migratory bird treaties with Japan (1972) and Russia (1976) have been implemented in the US through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA); and
- WHEREAS:** The restrictive terms of the Canadian and Mexico treaties and court decisions prevented the US from allowing the traditional subsistence harvest of migratory birds during the spring and summer in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** To remedy the situation, the United States negotiated Protocols amending both the Canada and Mexico treaties to allow for a spring/summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds by Alaska Native inhabitants of identified subsistence zones in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The treaty Protocols recognize and provide for the customary and traditional subsistence taking of migratory birds and their eggs in the spring and summer by the Alaska Native people of Alaska, consistent with the Nation’s long-term commitment to the conservation of migratory birds for their nutritional, social, cultural, spiritual, ecological, economic and aesthetic values; and
- WHEREAS:** Current regulations governing the Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska prohibit the sale or purchase of migratory bird parts, including feathers and parts of birds taken for subsistence (50 CFR § 92.6); and

WHEREAS: Bird parts, including feathers, have been used for thousands of years, by Alaska Natives in the making of traditional handicrafts, including in masks, garments, jewelry, clothing and dance regalia (fans, hats, rattles), and hunting equipment such as spears and arrows; and these items have been used, bartered and sold by Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives desire to continue to make and sell handicrafts using bird parts or feathers, along the lines allowed for marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA); and

WHEREAS: The MMPA exempts from the prohibition on the taking of marine mammals, taking by Alaska Natives if done for subsistence purposes; or for purposes of creating and selling authentic Alaska Native articles of handicrafts and clothing; and is done in a non-wasteful manner; and

WHEREAS: Providing such an exemption would have no significant impact on the migratory bird population because currently the feathers and bird parts of migratory birds taken for subsistence are discarded; and

WHEREAS: In April, 2012, the federal and state members of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council rejected a proposal from the Kodiak Island Village Tribes that called for an amendment to the subsistence regulations to exempt Alaska Natives from the prohibition on the sale of bird parts (including feathers) for traditional Alaska Native handicrafts; and

WHEREAS: The Protocol implementing the treaty with Mexico expressly recognizes that the Management bodies are to “employ the best available information on nutritional *and cultural needs, customary and traditional use, and other pertinent factors* in establishing the regulations to govern the subsistence hunt; and

WHEREAS: The Protocol implementing the treaty between Canada and the US expressly provides that “non-edible by-products of birds taken for nutritional purposes incorporated into authentic articles of handicraft by Alaska Natives *may be sold* in strictly limited situations and pursuant to a regulation by the competent authority in cooperation with the management bodies” and further that “regulations allowing for such harvest will be consistent with the customary and traditional uses of Alaska Native inhabitants for their nutritional and *other essential needs*; and

WHEREAS: The historical use of non-edible by-products of birds taken for subsistence for the making, barter and sale of authentic Alaska Native handicrafts should be

recognized and exempted from the prohibition on the sale of migratory bird parts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska work with Alaska Natives to recommend to the Secretary of the Interior amendments to the regulations that currently prohibit Alaska Natives from selling their traditional handicrafts containing feathers or parts of migratory birds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Federation of Natives moves forward and inform the Alaska State and federal agencies that any reference to indigenous people must be understood to mean Alaska Natives.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2012 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-12

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

TITLE: URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ENGAGE IN EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF THE ALL ALASKA ENERGY PROJECT AND TO COMMIT STATE RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING THIS PROJECT TO FREE ALL ALASKANS FROM THE CRIPPLING BURDEN OF EXPENSIVE ENERGY

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska is suffering from crippling energy costs compounded by unaffordable costs of living and air transportation; and

WHEREAS: Alaska industry is stifled from unavailability of affordable energy; and

WHEREAS: Alaskan refineries are unable to produce affordable petroleum fuels because their cost of energy is uncompetitive; and

WHEREAS: Urban Alaska is facing prospects of relying on imported gas to meet their electric and heating needs; and

WHEREAS: The Alaskan economy is languishing because well-paying jobs processing raw materials such as fish and extracted metals from Alaska are going to the Lower 48 or other countries where processing energy is cheaper; and

WHEREAS: The prospect of reduced costs in the foreseeable future is very bleak as none of the large energy projects on the drawing board appear to offer broad based relief; and

WHEREAS: AVEC and Marsh Creek LLC have proposed a project that would harness stranded north slope gas to generate extremely inexpensive, highly efficient power and deliver it across the state to serve all constituencies of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Such a project could promote large scale industrial projects and value added processing of Alaska's precious natural resources and could forever relieve Alaskans from the burden of unaffordable energy. It would create thousands of jobs for Alaskans and could make the difference between barely surviving and thriving; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby strongly urge the State of Alaska to engage in examining the feasibility of the All Alaska Energy Project and to commit state

resources to developing this project to free all Alaskans from the crippling burden of expensive energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates that the State of Alaska is urged to immediately begin the task of interconnecting Alaskan communities regionally so that they immediately begin to benefit from the economies of scale possible from the aggregation of electrical loads and so that these regional grids are able to immediately receive North Slope power when the backbone grid is constructed.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2012 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-13

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE FROM SEQUESTER, RESCISSION, AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN FY 2013 AND BEYOND
- WHEREAS:** The United States Congress acknowledged in the passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) that there exists a unique relationship between the Government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes and a unique Federal responsibility to Indian people; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States Congress further acknowledged in the passage of ISDEAA that it “the United States is committed to supporting and assisting Indian tribes in the development of strong and stable tribal governments, capable of administering quality programs and developing the economies of their respective communities”; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes across the United States have effectively used funding received through Department of Interior, especially the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to improve the economic, social and education circumstances for Native American and Alaska Native people through all formula and competitive grants; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the success of ISDEAA and the programs that it allows to be funded directly to tribes and tribal organizations through contracts and compacts, the economic, social and educational needs of Native Americans remain greater than those of non-Native people, as demonstrated by numerous quality of life standards, including but not limited to disproportional poverty rates, children in foster care, job training and lower economic achievement; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs, for example, is the primary source of tribal operations social and economic programs funding and represents only a portion of the costs of providing those services; and
- WHEREAS:** The threatened 7-10% cut would be immediately felt in our community and would directly affect our people; and

WHEREAS: Reducing funding by an additional 7-10% through sequestration, rescission, or other across-the-board funding cuts would greatly inhibit the ability of tribes and tribal organizations to address the ongoing health and social challenges in the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS: It is flawed public policy to drastically reduce funding for tribal programs that have a track record of effectively addressing the acute, high-priority needs of extremely vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS: Any further reduction to funding would be inconsistent with the expressly assumed trust responsibilities of the federal government;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives does hereby urge the United States Congress to exempt Department of Interior appropriations provided to tribes and tribal organizations from sequester, rescission, and other potential across-the-board funding reductions in FY 2013 and beyond.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2012 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-14

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS FOR TITLE VII OF THE ELEMENTARY AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT ESPECIALLY THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (ANEP) AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE FROM SEQUESTER, RESCISSION, AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN FY 2013 AND BEYOND
- WHEREAS:** The United States Congress acknowledged in the passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) that there exists a unique relationship between the Government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes and a unique Federal responsibility to Indian people; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States Congress further acknowledged in the passage of ISDEAA that it “the United States is committed to supporting and assisting Indian tribes in the development of strong and stable tribal governments, capable of administering quality programs and developing the economies of their respective communities”; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes across the United States have effectively used funding received through the Department of Education, especially Title VII and ANEP to improve education results for Native American and Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the success of certain tribal programs in education, the nation’s schools continue to fail Native American and Alaska Native students, and there remain large gaps between Native and non-Native student achievement as demonstrated by lower scores on standardized achievement tests, lower graduation rates and lower college and job training success; and
- WHEREAS:** The threatened 7-10% cut would be immediately felt in our community and would directly affect our people; and
- WHEREAS:** Reducing funding by an additional 7-10% through sequestration, rescission, or other across-the-board funding cuts would greatly inhibit the ability of tribes and

tribal organizations to address the ongoing health and social challenges in the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS: It is flawed public policy to drastically reduce funding for tribal programs that have a track record of effectively addressing the acute, high-priority needs of extremely vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS: Any further reduction to funding would be inconsistent with the expressly assumed trust responsibilities of the federal government;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives does hereby urge the United States Congress to exempt Department of Education appropriations provided to for the benefit of Native American and Alaska Native students from sequester, rescission, and other potential across-the-board funding reductions in FY 2013 and beyond.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2012 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-15

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE AND OTHER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE FROM SEQUESTER, RESCISSION, AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN FY 2013 AND BEYOND
- WHEREAS:** The United States Congress acknowledged in the passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) that there exists a unique relationship between the Government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes and a unique Federal responsibility to Indian people; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States Congress further acknowledged in the passage of ISDEAA that it “the United States is committed to supporting and assisting Indian tribes in the development of strong and stable tribal governments, capable of administering quality programs and developing the economies of their respective communities”; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes across the United States have effectively used funding received through Health and Human Services, especially the Indian Health Service, Administration for Native Americans and Administration for Children and Families (ACF), to improve the health and social circumstances for Native American and Alaska Native people through all formula and competitive grants; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the success of ISDEAA and the programs that it allows to be funded directly to tribes and tribal organizations through contracts and compacts, the health and social needs of Native Americans remain greater than those of non-Native people, as demonstrated by numerous quality of life standards, including but not limited to disproportional diabetes rates, substance abuse and suicide rates, poverty rates, children in foster care and lower economic achievement; and
- WHEREAS:** The Indian Health Service, for example, is the primary source of health care for Indian people and appropriations for this program have traditionally represented only a portion of the total health care needs in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS:** The threatened 7-10% cut would be immediately felt in our community and would directly affect our people; and

WHEREAS: Reducing funding by an additional 7-10% through sequestration, rescission, or other across-the-board funding cuts would greatly inhibit the ability of tribes and tribal organizations to address the ongoing health and social challenges in the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS: It is flawed public policy to drastically reduce funding for tribal programs that have a track record of effectively addressing the acute, high-priority needs of extremely vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS: Any further reduction to funding would be inconsistent with the expressly assumed trust responsibilities of the federal government;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives does hereby urge the United States Congress to exempt Health and Human Services appropriations provided to tribes and tribal organizations from sequester, rescission, and other potential across-the-board funding reductions in FY 2013 and beyond.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



SUBSISTENCE



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-16

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO ALLOW ONLINE MOOSE HARVEST REPORTING
- WHEREAS:** Moose hunters in Alaska are required by regulations of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to report their harvest information, even for unsuccessful hunts; and
- WHEREAS:** The penalty for failing to report is disqualification from getting a moose tag the following year, which is a severe penalty for subsistence hunters; and
- WHEREAS:** Although ADF&G allows filing harvest reports online, the system is inconsistent or poorly designed because hunters in the remote regions have been penalized for not filing paper reports even though they filed online; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that Alaska Department of Fish and Game is urged to consistently allow moose harvest reports to be filed online, without additional paper reporting, and to ensure the online reporting system works correctly.

- SUBMITTED BY:** BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
- COMMITTEE ACTION:** DO PASS
- CONVENTION ACTION:** PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-17

Title: SUPPORTING THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AND THE STATE OF ALASKA'S EFFORTS TO ENACT DISASTER DECLARATION FOR CHINOOK SALMON THROUGHOUT VARIOUS SALMON MANAGEMENT AREAS TO INCLUDE THE ARCTIC YUKON KUSKOKWIM REGION (AYK), KODIAK, AND THE COOK INLET REGIONS AND FURTHER DIRECTION OF FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS TO VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE AYK SUSTAINABLE SALMON INITIATIVE

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and

WHEREAS: Healthy and abundant Chinook Salmon stocks of Alaska are essential to the cultural, nutritional and economic well-being and way of life of the tribal peoples who live along river drainages and coastal communities that provide the essential food security established as a basic human right by the United Nations and affirmed by the United States in the UN's Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS: The Chinook stocks throughout Alaska are in a serious multi-year state of decline, resulting in failed escapements, closed subsistence fisheries and restricted commercial fisheries causing area residents not to harvest amounts necessary for subsistence or other cash based needs providing for subsistence purposes; and

WHEREAS: The 2012 Chinook Salmon return is now documented as one of, if not the worst in recorded history, and nowhere in the country or the world, are salmon more important to the survival, subsistence economy and essential way of life, than for the people of Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the enactment of disaster declarations by the US Congress, Presidential Administration and State of Alaska for Alaska's Chinook salmon fisheries so that affected tribes may access disaster relief funds to address immediate subsistence needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the US Congress, Presidential Administration and State of Alaska support and appropriate urgently needed funding directed specifically to the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative at no less than \$5,000,000. per year for a minimum of eight years (one full Chinook salmon lifecycle) to address salmon research and restoration needs throughout the AYK regions in Alaska and others as needed; and

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-18

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** CALLING FOR A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT HEARING ON SELF-DETERMINATION, INCLUDING ALASKA NATIVE HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS:** For the last three years, subsistence fishing restrictions have grown more intense and have lasted up to 12 days this past summer; and
- WHEREAS:** All anadromous fish are utilized for subsistence: humpy (pink) salmon, chum salmon, sockeye salmon, and Chinook salmon; and
- WHEREAS:** Intensive subsistence restrictions imposed in the past several years deprived many tribal members from harvesting and processing the amount of Chinook salmon necessary for their winter food security needs, even the amounts necessary for subsistence, a minimal measurement made by the state, have not been met for five consecutive years; and
- WHEREAS:** These subsistence restrictions are occurring while our salmon are being intercepted in their return to tributary streams, regardless of the amount minimized by federal agencies; and are being wasted in wintering grounds by the Bering Sea Pollock and North Pacific trawl fisheries as bycatch; and
- WHEREAS:** During the summer of 2012, Tribal members and Alaska Natives were cited and their nets confiscated by federal and state law enforcement personnel criminalizing our Tribal members for trying to feed their families; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes and organizations have made many attempts to initiate the "extraterritorial jurisdiction" provision of ANILCA to protect the escapement and subsistence harvest opportunity for Chinook salmon to the Federal Subsistence Board and the Office of Subsistence Management, but has led to continuous denials of our requests; and
- WHEREAS:** On many occasions, the federal subsistence management system have provided full deference to the state of Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Commercial Fisheries Division to manage the subsistence Chinook salmon fisheries in our river systems; and
- WHEREAS:** AVCP and other have made numerous requests to close the Yukon and Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon subsistence fisheries for all other users except the "federally qualified users," but have been denied; and

WHEREAS: State and federal hunting and fishing regulations in many cases do not provide sufficient opportunity for tribal members to meet their nutritional, economic and cultural needs and numerous proposals have been made to the federal subsistence board to change these regulations and in many cases the Boards refused to adopt regulations that fully recognize and accommodate the hunting and fishing way of life of our tribal peoples; and

WHEREAS: Current state and federal management agencies, including the federal office of subsistence management, do not recognize or incorporate tribal governments and it's members in meaningful co-management of fish and wildlife resources, and this form of exclusive management fundamentally violates the right of self-determination, prevents the development of tribal management capacity, prevents the contribution of traditional knowledge and the wisdom of the elders, is detrimental for the health of the resource, and is not acceptable; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that the AFN Administration seek a clear commitment from Senator Murkowski and Senator Begich for oversight hearings by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and Representative Don Young and the subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Natives Affairs or other appropriate committee(s) in 2013 on the struggles of Alaska Native Peoples face to perpetuate their hunting and fishing way of life, including their right to self-determination as an inherent right, and that such hearings result in concrete legislative proposals to address these issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hearings are held in rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-19

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO FUND ESSENTIAL RESEARCH ON DISASTROUSLY DECLING SALMON STOCKS THROUGH THE SUSTAINABLE SALMON INITIATIVE
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaskan salmon are critically important to the survival, subsistence economy and essential way of life for the people of the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Norton Sound regions; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Natives utilize all Native salmon species including Chinook salmon, dog salmon (chum salmon), sockeye salmon, pink salmon and coho salmon (silver salmon) for subsistence purposes; and
- WHEREAS:** The Kuskokwim ,Yukon and other Rivers have experienced a number of years of disastrous runs of Chinook salmon over the past decade, including the 2012 run, in addition, Norton Sound has suffered the failures of Chinook salmon most dramatically in the Unalakleet River along with other species around the area for nearly a generation; and
- WHEREAS:** On September 13, 2012, the Acting U.S. Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank declared a fisheries disaster for Yukon, Kuskokwim and other River Chinook salmon in response to extremely low salmon returns in 2012; and
- WHEREAS:** In a disaster year such as 2012, the Chinook salmon runs on the Kuskokwim, Yukon and other Rivers do not meet necessary escapement levels and to provide subsistence users with the opportunity to harvest even the minimum "amounts necessary for subsistence" as established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries; and
- WHEREAS:** These poor returns have led to widespread restrictions and closures of subsistence and small scale commercial fisheries and caused great nutritional, economic and cultural hardship for the thousands of tribal members who live in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim regions and depend upon the return of Chinook salmon and other salmon stocks for their health, well-being and way of life; and
- WHEREAS:** The Association of Village Council Presidents, Kawarek and Tanana Chiefs Confrence are founding member and signatory to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK SSI) which serves as an example collaborative multi-stakeholder effort addressing the pressing salmon research needs in the AYK region; and

WHEREAS: With the leadership and collaboration of the AYK SSI member organizations, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association-- the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative has emerged as one of the largest and most successful working models of cooperative fisheries research in North America; and

WHEREAS: There is an urgent need to create stable, long-term diversified sources of funding to implement the AYK SSI's high quality, collaborative research and restoration program to address the causes of the declines of Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS: The Bering Sea Fishermen's Association has served as the administrative entity for the AYK SSI since 2002, providing essential staffing, contracting services, planning and administrative support for the AYK SSI.; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. request the Alaska State Legislature to appropriate urgently needed funding to the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative salmon research program to address the salmon research and restoration needs of this region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Federation of Natives request that the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association serve as the recipient and fiscal agent of this and future funding directed to the AYK SSI salmon research program on behalf of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative, with oversight by its Steering Committee as defined in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative 2002 Memorandum of Understanding.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-20

TITLE: REDUCTION OF CHINOOK, CHUM, OTHER SALMON SPECIES AND HAILBUT BY-CATCH IN THE BERING SEA AND GULF OF ALASKA POLLOCK FISHERY AND IN THE RUSSIAN ECONOMIC ZONE

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and

WHEREAS: Chum, Chinook, other salmon species and halibut provide an essential source of food, income and culture for the people of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and is a critical part of providing for the basic human right of food security of tribal peoples as protected by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People; and

WHEREAS: Subsistence harvests of fall chum salmon have been restricted in recent years in some areas of the State of Alaska, and chum salmon are a critical source of food via subsistence fisheries and income via commercial fisheries, particularly in these times of Chinook salmon shortage; and

WHEREAS: The Bering Sea pollock fishery catches these same salmon as bycatch; catching over 700,000 chum salmon in 2005 and over 120,000 Chinook Salmon in 2007; and

WHEREAS: In 2010, the Gulf of Alaska Pollock fishery bycatch of Chinook salmon was 54,449; and

WHEREAS: In June 2011, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council adopted Amendment 93 which prohibits the Gulf of Alaska Pollock fisheries from exceeding a 25,000 limit of Chinook salmon bycatch; and

WHEREAS: Chinook salmon abundance in the Gulf of Alaska rivers like the Karluk, Kenai, Deshka, and the Mat-su have dropped in the recent years to unsustainable levels; and

WHEREAS: The Gulf of Alaska Pollock fishery bycatch of Chinook salmon not only affects Alaska Chinook salmon stocks, but stocks of origin from Asia, British Columbia, and lower – 48 Endangered Species Act protected fish; and

WHEREAS: As an example, according to the best available scientific information a portion of the chum salmon taken as bycatch are of Western Alaska origin, including the Yukon River, Kuskokwim River and Norton Sound region watersheds; and

WHEREAS: Extremely high bycatch numbers have been reached under the current North Pacific Fishery Management Council management regime and it is therefore essential to adopt new management measures; and

WHEREAS: The Council action allowing up to 60,000 Chinook Salmon bycatch or, 47,500 as a performance standard, is unacceptable and is above the Pollock Fisheries' long term average- since 2007 the fleet has operated far under this level of bycatch; and

WHEREAS: Chinook runs throughout Western Alaska have continued to decline and due to the declines in our salmon and marine mammal biomass from by-catch abuses, tribal users throughout Western Alaska have not been able to meet their basic needs for food security; and

WHEREAS: Bycatch of Western Alaska Chinook, chum and other species of salmon is likely occurring in the Russian Exclusive Economic Zone; and

WHEREAS: The Bering Sea has suffered well over 60 years of benthic habitat destruction due to heavy bottom trawl and Pollock fishing activities; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives requests that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council adopt management measures, through consultation with affected Alaska tribal governments, which will protect Alaska Chinook, chum and salmon species runs at a level that will ensure abundant and sustainable harvests sufficient to provide for the nutritional, cultural and economic needs of the customary and traditional users of these salmon stocks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federations urges the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to review the Chinook salmon bycatch management measures (Amendment 91) in light of the 2010 genetic stock identification information, the current status of Western Alaska Chinook stocks and performance in year 1 under the incentive plans, and that the Council consults and works with the CDQ organizations in efforts to reduce and target the elimination of Chinook bycatch, including restricting and/or eliminating the October and November fishing periods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federations urges the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to continuously review the Chinook salmon bycatch management measures (Amendment 93) with continuously improving genetic

identification of the stock of origin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives request of the Alaska Congressional Delegation, U.S State Department, and the U.S. Department of Commerce to take all necessary actions to reduce and eliminate Chinook, Chum, and Sockeye Salmon bycatch in the Russian Economic Zone; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that there be protection for both Zhemchug and Pribilof Canyons, two of the largest underwater canyons in the World and that they be set aside as protected areas from further destruction and habitat degradation.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2012 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-21

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** ELDER'S 65 YEARS AND OVER EXEMPTION FROM SUBSISTENCE RESTRICTIONS AND CLOSURES
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and
- WHEREAS:** We have Elders that are the age of 65 and over and their Tribes are federally recognized Tribe; and
- WHEREAS:** These Elders are active and capable of subsistence fishing; and
- WHEREAS:** These Elders deserve to subsistence fish without any restrictions on any given day even on both State and Federal Subsistence closures; and
- WHEREAS:** These Elders from the Federally Recognized Tribes heavily depend on salmon resources to feed their families; and
- WHEREAS:** It is important that these Elders practice the subsistence way of life for both cultural and traditional way, it is an aboriginal right; and
- WHEREAS:** these Elders have lived a hard life only on fixed income all their lives; and
- WHEREAS:** During State and Federal Subsistence closures they suffer spiritually, physically, and emotionally depressed; and
- WHEREAS:** The Subsistence closures jeopardizes the health, lives, and well-being of these Elders; and
- WHEREAS:** The Congressional promise made to the Alaska Natives of restoring of the hunting and fishing rights of the Alaska Natives that is part of the Legislative history of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement remains unfulfilled to this day; and
- WHEREAS:** TITLE VIII of Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) came short of restoring the hunting and fishing rights of the Alaska Natives; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN advocate for changes in the law that

would exempt Elders at the age of 65 years and over who are members of the Federally Recognized Tribes from any subsistence restrictions and closures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT those elders 65 years or older are no longer physically capable to fish themselves be allowed to give their proxy to an immediate family member to fish on their behalf and be exempt from any subsistence restrictions and closures; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the full Governing Body of Alaska Federation of Natives supports and passes this resolution for the sake of Elders 65 years and over who are capable of subsistence fishing no longer suffer and be exempt from subsistence closures and restrictions; including, but not limited to amending the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to accomplish this; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game contract with the Regional Tribal Consortiums to administer the issuance of subsistence permits and compiling the reports to the Department of Fish and Game for compliance.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-22

**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

TITLE:

A RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO INCREASE HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDING AND INCLUDING ADDITIONAL HIP FUNDING IN THE AMERICAN JOBS BILL

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and

WHEREAS: The United States owes a unique and legal obligation to the 231 federally recognized Indian Tribes of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Housing Improvement Program (HIP) has been underfunded, seeing annual appropriations drop 50% since 2008; and

WHEREAS: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) deemed HIP redundant and duplicative of the Native American and Housing Assistance Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) program; and

WHEREAS: HIP is a critical addition to other Native American housing programs because it provides housing opportunities to individuals and families who cannot otherwise receive housing assistance from HUD; and

WHEREAS: The federal poverty income guideline implemented by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for HIP is too low, forcing out individuals earning minimum wage yet not eligible for HIP; and

WHEREAS: The Department of the Interior (DOI) should exercise its government-to-government consultation policy by forming a task force consisting of Alaska tribal governments and DOI officials to develop policies to ensure that there is no duplication of program services; and

WHEREAS: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided housing and economic opportunities by creating jobs for 17 Alaskan tribal communities; and

WHEREAS: Additional funding for programs that will provide housing assistance and job creation like the ARRA is still needed in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: AFN's proposal to include \$50 million for HIP in the FY 2014 budget would provide an economic benefit for the unemployed and those in the need of housing; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN pursues the following executive and legislative actions to:

1. Conduct immediate Congressional oversight hearings in Alaska to be held before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Committee on Natural Resources regarding the Housing Improvement Program policy and future funding; and
2. Provide more housing opportunities to address homelessness, overcrowding, and high unemployment; and
3. Seek immediate consultation and participation between Alaska tribal, village and regional corporations, local and bureau governments and Alaska Native Housing Authorities and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop recommendations for revisions to HIP regulations; and
4. Introduce legislation protecting HIP funding resources within the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs' budget proposals to the President; and
5. Increase HIP funding for FY 2014 to \$50 million; and
6. Include HIP funding in any future stimulus bills; and
7. Increase the poverty guideline from 125% to 225%; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that this resolution is forwarded to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, urging increased and continued funding for Housing Improvement Program and include additional Housing Improvement Program funding in the American Jobs Bill.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS AND BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-23

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE, AND PETITIONING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ALASKA NATIVE RESIDENTS' CONTINUED ACCESS TO THESE PROGRAMS AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and

WHEREAS: A significant number of elderly Alaska Native residents receive and rely on Social Security and Medicare; and

WHEREAS: There is growing political will in Washington to dramatically alter the Social Security and Medicare systems; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives wishes to protect, preserve, and improve Social Security and Medicare for current and future beneficiaries; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN makes a full-pledge commitment to oppose any legislation, plan, or recommendation that will in any way harm or diminish the benefits, structure, or traditional roles of Social Security and Medicare, including further efforts to cut Social Security and privatize Medicare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to vote against any proposals harmful to Social Security, Medicare, or their beneficiaries; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Alaska Federation of Natives will support the National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare in its efforts to protect and improve these vital programs.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS AND
EMMONAK TRIBAL COUNCIL/EMONAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-24

- TITLE:** CALL TO ACTION TO CREATE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TRIBAL & COMMUNITY AGENCIES TO ORGANIZE, MAKE DECISIONS, AND FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS TO REVIVE, STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO PREVENT SUICIDE BY UTILIZING TRADITIONAL MODALITIES AND THERAPEUTIC MODELS AS APPROPRIATE OR ADOPTED BY EACH COMMUNITY
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and
- WHEREAS:** Suicide is a serious issue, where a significant percentage of Alaska Native communities in all of Alaska are greatly and adversely affected; and
- WHEREAS:** Incidents of suicide are twice the national average; and
- WHEREAS:** A significant percentage of the Alaska Native population in communities statewide are in various stages of overcoming learned multi-generational behaviors that include alcohol and drug abuse, resulting in harmful side effects of violence and self-destruction both personal and social; and
- WHEREAS:** Supporting current village-based initiatives to re-engage individuals, families and communities in taking care of themselves and each other is a challenge, understanding complexities of village-based human resources to deliver quality services is an on-going need; and
- WHEREAS:** Suicide deaths occur in only 25% of the region's villages, where life challenges are influenced by adverse economic, social and cultural factors. AFN seeks support from regional entities who provide economic, social, and cultural support to individuals and families from the devastating impact suicide leaves behind in such communities; and
- WHEREAS:** There is strong evidence among tribal delegates attending various conventions and including Suicide Prevention summits where attending delegates have prioritized the topic of Suicide Prevention as a target focus; and
- WHEREAS:** Utilizing the traditional modality and therapeutic model to build local capacity and consensus across the AFN region, which allows villages to educate themselves about the challenges by holding:
- 1) Local community wellness/family spirit gatherings;
 - 2) Safe sober activities as a means to reconnect to traditional cultural values;

3) Alternative activities that promote overall health and wellness; and

WHEREAS Suicide prevention remains an important priority in the Self-Reliance, Self-Determination, and Integrity of Native Culture; and will allow Alaska Natives to be the healthiest people; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., request continued partnership with AFN and our shared Tribal Council Delegation to maintain the local empowerment approach that enables wellness discussions or activities at the local level to combat suicide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current Suicide Prevention activities and partnering communities and agencies allow capacity building activities to continue for the villages to maintain and support the communities and individuals at work to rebuild attitudes of wellness and prevention for the benefit of our greater health, for communities and their children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Behavioral Health, Wellness, and Suicide prevention partnerships, will continue to collaborate with AFN in support of this approach— which works to shift the tools, responsibility and power of healing and development of healthy behaviors to individuals, families, schools and communities, by changing attitudes, behaviors and adapting belief systems most relevant to communities themselves.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-25

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO RETURN POWER COST EQUALIZATION (PCE) TO THE 1998 LEVEL

WHEREAS: The 2011/2012 winter was one of the coldest and harshest in 25 years, and

WHEREAS: Rising energy costs including heat and power have made it increasingly hard to sustain rural communities; and

WHEREAS: In the last legislative session Representative Bryce Edgmon sponsored HB 294, which would have returned elements of the Power Cost Equalization Program to 1998 levels; and

WHEREAS: HB 294 would have raised the kilowatt hours ceiling from 500 to 600 per month, and also added small commercial customers to the pool of eligible entities; and

WHEREAS: We believe that PCE should be fully restored to 1998 levels, including up to 700Kwh a month for residential and small commercial customers; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that the Alaska State Legislature is urged to enact legislation similar to HB 294 in the next legislative session and restore Power Cost Equalization to 1998 levels.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-26

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF EXPEDITIOUS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REAUTHORIZING THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA) ACT OF 1996 AND FULL FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA) 2013 & 2014 FISCAL YEAR FUNDING
- WHEREAS:** The Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program, created by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is a primary source of funding in Alaska for affordable housing and housing-related activities for low-income Alaska Native and American Indian families; and
- WHEREAS:** The IHBG program enables Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) to develop and operate elder and family rental housing, develop homes for homeownership, provide affordable home loans and down payment assistance, deliver housing readiness counseling, issue tenant-based and project-based rental assistance vouchers, provide weatherization upgrades, combat homelessness, and provide supportive housing for individuals with special needs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) provides funding to tribes each year for infrastructure and community facility development; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA funding enables Tribes and TDHEs to leverage significant additional public and private sector resources to serve the affordable housing needs of Alaska Native and American Indian families; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA has proven to be effective in addressing the severe shortage of safe, affordable housing in Indian country by enabling Tribes and TDHEs throughout the U.S. to construct 8,130 homeownership and 5,011 rental units, acquire 3,811 homeownership and 800 rental units, and rehabilitate 27,422 homeownership and 5,289 rental units from 2003 to 2008 alone; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA provides a 5 year reauthorization schedule and is due to be considered by Congress for reauthorization in the 113th Congress (2013); and
- WHEREAS:** Notwithstanding the fact that NAHASDA has a proven track record of effective performance in addressing the severe shortage of safe, affordable housing in Indian country, housing conditions in Indian Country remain far inferior to those of the general U.S. population; and

WHEREAS: Despite the many successes and innovations that may be attributed to NAHASDA, housing conditions in Indian Country remain far inferior to those of the general U.S. population; and

WHEREAS: Although Congress may consider reductions to many federally funded programs as a result of the U.S. budget deficit, NAHASDA has proven to be an extremely effective tool for both direct and indirect job creation, providing education and training opportunities in the construction trades; and helping to stabilize communities by building high performing homes that are greatly assisting in national goals to reduce the use of fossil fuels and overall energy costs of low-income homebuyers and renters:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that Congress act swiftly in the 113th Congress to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) of 1996, and continue to fund this critical Indian Country program at **NO LESS THAN \$700 million** for FY 2013 & 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that Congress and the President approve funding for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) at the President's proposed amount of \$100 million.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA, INC; ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-27

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT FROM SEQUESTER, RESCISSION, AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN FY 2013 AND BEYOND
- WHEREAS:** The United States Congress acknowledged in the passage of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) that “there exists a unique relationship between the Government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes and a unique Federal responsibility to Indian people”; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States Congress further acknowledged in the passage of NAHASDA that it “has assumed a trust responsibility for the protection and preservation of Indian tribes and for working with tribes and their members to improve their housing conditions and socioeconomic status so that they are able to take greater responsibility for their own economic condition”; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA recognizes that “the need for affordable homes in safe and healthy environments on Indian reservations, in Indian communities, and in Native Alaskan villages is acute” and that “providing affordable homes in safe and healthy environments is an essential element in the special role of the United States in helping tribes and their members to improve their housing conditions and socioeconomic status”; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes across the United States have effectively used NAHASDA funding to address the acute housing needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people, as indicated by a 2010 report of the United States Government Accountability Office noting that NAHASDA recipients constructed 13,141 new homes, acquired 4,611 existing homes, and rehabilitated more than 32,000 homes between 2003 and 2008 alone; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the success of NAHASDA, the housing needs of Native Americans remain greater than those of non-Natives, as demonstrated by U.S. Census data from 2007 indicating that 28% of Native households were overcrowded or lacked adequate plumbing and kitchen facilities, compared to just 5.4% of households nationally; and

WHEREAS: Appropriations to NAHASDA's Indian Housing Block Grant program have repeatedly failed to keep pace with inflationary increases to the cost of housing development and operations; and

WHEREAS: In FY 2011, Congress reduced funding for NAHASDA's Indian Housing Block Grant program by more than 7% (\$50 million); and

WHEREAS: Reducing NAHASDA funding by an additional 7-10% through sequestration, rescission, or other across-the-board funding cuts would greatly inhibit the ability of NAHASDA recipients to address the ongoing shortage of safe, affordable housing in the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS: It is flawed public policy to drastically reduce funding for federal programs, such as the Indian Housing Block Grant, that have a track record of effectively addressing the acute, high-priority needs of extremely vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS: Any further reduction to NAHASDA funding would be inconsistent with the expressly assumed trust responsibilities of the federal government; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives does hereby urge the United States Congress to exempt appropriations under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act from sequester, rescission, and other potential across-the-board funding reductions in FY 2013 and beyond.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA INC.; ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-28

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** SUPPORT OF ACTIVE SALMON REHABILITATION INCLUDING HABITAT NUTRIENT ENRICHMENT
- WHEREAS:** The Native peoples of Alaska have fished and depended on salmon for centuries; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska's Native people believe we must treat our fishery resources with great respect and care, and that we must all work to ensure that the fisheries remain healthy and vibrant for future generations: and
- WHEREAS:** Strong and consistent salmon returns are vitally important to Alaska Native people, both culturally and to the local, regional and statewide economics; and
- WHEREAS:** Weak and depressed salmon runs result in loss of subsistence food, trade and barter food as well as jobs and income for Alaska communities; and
- WHEREAS:** As an example of need, the sockeye and Chinook salmon stocks of the Karluk river system have declined significantly in recent years and this has led to limited subsistence, sport and commercial fishing opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** As an additional example of need, salmon stocks, particularly Chinook salmon stocks, throughout Alaska have significantly declined and severely impact Alaska's native peoples and rural economies; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) has policies and directives in place to meet its constitutional mandate to manage Alaska's fishery resources for sustained yield; and
- WHEREAS:** There is strong scientific evidence that controlled scientifically-measured application of the basic elements nitrogen and phosphorus supplementing missing marine derived nutrients that are essential to salmon ecosystems health and productivity, where appropriate, is effective to energize weak or failing salmon stocks; and
- WHEREAS:** ADF&G has a strong scientific research and years of successful first-hand experience with active rehabilitation of depressed salmon stocks through various enhancement, stocking and enrichment programs including, where appropriate, nutrient enrichment of freshwater habitat (lakes and rivers); and
- WHEREAS:** Regional Aquaculture Associations have also worked with ADF&G to complete successful rehabilitation and enrichment projects including, by way of

illustration, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association's (KRAA's) 1987-92 Karluk nutrient enhancement project.

WHEREAS: Alaska native people benefit greatly from active and direct salmon enhancement, enrichment and rehabilitation programs; and

WHEREAS: Weak salmon stocks energized through salmon enhancement, including nutrient enhancement, also benefit sport and commercial fishermen and enhanced salmon stocks contribute economically to Alaska's coastal communities and overall economic wellbeing; and

WHEREAS: A number of regional aquaculture associations across Alaska are working to obtain permits for nutrient enrichment enhancement projects; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports the active rehabilitation and enhancement of weak salmon stocks throughout the State of Alaska including, where appropriate, nutrient enrichment projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests Federal and State permitting agencies to partner with Alaska's native people, Alaska Department of Fish and Game as well as regional aquaculture associations to approve, with timeliness, enhancement projects, including nutrient enrichment enhancement, that will help to restore healthy salmon stocks and thereby provide subsistence, sport and commercial fishing opportunities for Alaska's native peoples.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG-KANA ROUNDTABLE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-29

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- Title:** A RESOLUTION MANDATING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA RECOGNIZE THE LAND OWNED BY ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS AS PRIVATE LAND
- WHEREAS:** As a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), Alaska Native Corporations were established under Alaska state law as privately held corporations; and
- WHEREAS:** Also as a result of ANCSA, those Alaska Native Corporations received a total of approximately 44 million acres of land; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of receiving these lands was twofold: 1) to provide the Alaska Native Corporations with a means to provide economic development which would provide benefits back to the shareholders and 2) to provide ownership of the traditional lands to the native peoples who have used those lands since time immemorial for customary and traditional practices, including subsistence harvesting; and
- WHEREAS:** Since becoming land owners, Alaska Native Corporations have been forced to deal with trespassers, including the State of Alaska, who time and time again, does not acknowledge or honor that the lands owned by the Alaska Native Corporations is private land; and
- WHEREAS:** As a result, the State of Alaska has on multiple occasions, trespassed on native owned land to widen easements, relocate easements, build other infrastructure, remove infrastructure or other things put in place by the Native Corporation; and
- WHEREAS:** In many instances, the State of Alaska, does not approach or consult with the Native Corporation prior to entering onto the Corporation's land nor does the State of Alaska offer to fairly compensate the Native Corporation for taking the land or destroying work done by the Native Corporation on the land; and
- WHEREAS:** Such behavior by the State of Alaska would not be tolerated or accepted if it was directed at an individual land owner; and
- WHEREAS:** As result of this behavior by the State of Alaska, many Alaska Native Corporations have been forced to file litigation against the State to stop it from further taking of native lands, and/or to seek compensation for damage or taking that was already done by the State; and

WHEREAS: Filing such litigation is very expensive and takes resources out of the Native Corporation that it otherwise should have had available to provide dividends or other benefits, build the Corporation's business, or invest for the shareholders future; and

WHEREAS: These resources often times equate to hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent by the Native Corporations protecting their own lands;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the delegates of the 2013 Alaska Federation of Natives, do hereby mandate that each Department within the State of Alaska receive training and other education, explaining that the land held by Native Corporations in private land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such education be given at least annually, to ensure that all Departments and State of Alaska employees receive the training and are consistently reminded that this land is not for public use or use or taking by the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that each Department within the State of Alaska further educate all of its employees that in all instances where Native Corporation land needs to be accessed, crossed or otherwise used, that the employees must first contact and engage the Native Corporation in all activities and seek permission to access its lands.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ECONOMIC



**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-30

- TITLE:** URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FUND INDIRECT COSTS FOR CONTRACTS/GRANTS AT GRANTEE AGENCIES' FEDERALLY APPROVED INDIRECT COST RATES.
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska and the federal government, through grants and contracts, procures and receives education, health, social and other services through many tribes and tribal entities; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and tribal entities are often in the best position to provide these services, often at a cost less than if the state or federal agencies were to attempt to deliver the same services on their own; and
- WHEREAS:** Indirect costs are those incurred for the joint benefit of projects and other activities and are frequently referred to as over-head and general and administrative expenses; and
- WHEREAS:** Certain agencies within the State of Alaska and the federal government require indirect costs to be capped at a certain percentage; and,
- WHEREAS:** The capped indirect amount is often less than the grantee agencies' federally approved indirect rates; and
- WHEREAS:** Grantee agencies end up with different indirect rates for the various contracts they administer; and
- WHEREAS:** Limiting indirect cost recovery on one source of funding results in cost-shifting of the overhead expenses to other funding sources; and
- WHEREAS:** The continually rising cost to provide services makes it imperative that agencies collect indirect at their Federally approved rate; and
- WHEREAS:** If an agency does not recover indirect on the funds that it manages, it will "under recover" on indirect; and
- WHEREAS:** Under-recovery is a real cost to the organization; and
- WHEREAS:** A negative consequence of an agency continually "under recovering" is having to tap into its fund balance/reserve account to meet operating expenses; and

WHEREAS: An organization cannot continually tap into its fund balance/reserve to fund on-going administrative expenses. Eventually the fund will run dry leaving a potential for bankruptcy; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that we urge the State of Alaska and all federal agencies to honor and allow the application of the grantee agencies' approved Federal Indirect Rate in full.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-31

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA FUND THE DENALI COMMISSION TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** The Denali Commission was created by Congress in 1998; and
- WHEREAS:** The Denali Commission is an independent federal agency designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout rural Alaska; with the creation of the Denali Commission, Congress acknowledged the need for increased inter-agency cooperation and focus on Alaska's remote communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska is a relatively new state, rural Alaska lacks much of the basic infrastructure that is in place in the lower 48; there are 231 federally recognized tribes in the State of Alaska; most tribes are located in the remote, undeveloped areas of the State; and
- WHEREAS:** The Commission is credited with providing numerous cost-shared infrastructure projected across the State that exemplifies effective and efficient partnership between federal and state agencies, and the private sector; and
- WHEREAS:** The Denali Commission's Transportation Program began in late 2005 as part of the Safe, Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) legislation and accompanying amendments to the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (amended); the program focus is rural roads and waterfront development; the Denali Transportation Program has developed successful design and construction partnerships with the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Western Federal Lands Highway Division, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Corps of Engineers. The program also develops projects with regional, local and tribal governments, and regional tribal non-profits; success in the program is also a function of excellent ongoing guidance from the FHWA Alaska Division; and
- WHEREAS:** The Denali Commission Transportation program targets basic road improvement needs; the program provides opportunities to connect rural communities to one another and the state highway system, and opportunities to enhance rural economic development; the waterfront development program addresses port, harbor and other waterfront needs for rural communities; the emerging focus

areas are improvements to regional ports, and construction of barge landings and docking facilities; and

WHEREAS: The Denali Commission Transportation Access program is a successful program that provides funding to improve community roads in rural Alaska that would otherwise never have any rehabilitation or new construction done at the local level; this program is very important as it allows villages in rural Alaska to improve routes from clinics to airports for medevac's, improve road conditions for children to walk safely to schools and to improve the health of residents in the form of dust control; and

WHEREAS: The cost of transportation is a huge factor in the cost of living in rural Alaska; it is estimated that for every \$1,000 of construction materials purchased, rural Alaskans have to pay an additional 50%+ in transportation costs; the average cost for gasoline and heating fuel in rural Alaska is \$6.00/gallon or more and typical rural Alaskans must heat their homes 10 months a year, where 46% of the population of rural Alaska are children, 23% of our population lives in poverty and close to 50% of our adults are not employed; the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage estimates that rural low income Alaskans spend 85% of their income on heating and electrical expenses, and electricity is generated via diesel generators, the cost of fuel directly translates into higher electrical costs; and

WHEREAS: With the passage of SAFETEA-LU, Tribes and Tribal Consortiums in Alaska had been able to access funding for transportation and harbor/port projects through the Denali Commission; SAFETEA-LU contained language which created the Denali Transportation Access Committee (and program) which made available \$15 million annually to the Denali Commission during the life of the bill for rural Alaska transportation projects; the bill also made available over \$10 million/year to help address rural Alaska port and harbor needs; the Denali Commission has administered these funds with minimum administrative overhead; rural Alaskans have been able to match these funds to BIA Tribal Transportation Program, Corps of Engineers and State of Alaska funding sources to help fund projects in village Alaska. The State of Alaska, through its STIP process, rarely funds projects in village Alaska beyond airports and roads to landfills and has a 10% local match requirement, which most villages are unable to meet; and

WHEREAS: Funding for the Denali Transportation Program has been eliminated with the new MAP-21 transportation bill; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska needs assistance in ensuring that rural Alaska is able to access continued assistance to address transportation infrastructure needs in our remote communities; and

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that we respectfully request that the State of Alaska recognize the good work of the Denali Transportation Program and authorize funding in the State budget to the Denali Commission at the level that was funded by the federal government in SAFETEA-LU.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWAERAK, INC

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-32

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

TITLE: SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL POSTAL SERVICES TO ALASKA VILLAGES

WHEREAS: The existing Bypass Mail program allows universal service to remote Villages in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Bypass Mail program is a critical link in keeping remote communities connected, particularly in rural Alaska where many towns and villages have no road access; and

WHEREAS: To discontinue or curtail the Bypass Mail program would cause postal customers in remote areas to lose access to crucial and vital items, such as prescription medications; and would cause significant shortages of essential food, fuel, and household items, as well as substantial corresponding price increases; and

WHEREAS: Even with the benefits of the existing Bypass Mail program, there continue to be significant delays in receiving packages, and shipping costs and the costs of essential items in the Villages remain very high; and

WHEREAS: The Delegates of the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., desire to thank Alaska's Congressional Delegation for their efforts to support the continuation of the Bypass Mail program and other essential postal services to Alaska Villages, but wish to remind them that, even with the existence of the Bypass Mail program, there continue to be significant delays in receiving packages, and shipping costs and the costs of essential items in the Villages remain very high; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., supports the continuation of the Bypass Mail program and other essential postal services to Alaska Villages

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., desire to thank Alaska's Congressional Delegation for their efforts to support the continuation of the Bypass Mail program and other essential postal services to Alaska Villages, but wish to remind them that, even with the existence of the Bypass Mail program, there

continue to be significant delays in receiving packages, and shipping costs and the costs of essential items in the Villages remain very high; and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Alaska's Congressional Delegation to thank them for their efforts related to the Bypass Mail program; to urge them to persist in their efforts to support the continuation of the Bypass Mail program and other essential postal services to Alaska Villages; and to remind them that, even with the existence of the Bypass Mail program, there continue to be significant delays in receiving packages, and shipping costs and the costs of essential items in the Villages remain very high.

SUBMITTED BY: OLGOONIK CORPORATION; WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-33

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

TITLE: ESTABLISHING FUNDING AN ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND FUNDING PRIORITY FOR RURAL ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

WHEREAS: Alaska is a vast state, with millions of acres of wilderness and has few transportation options with ground transportation non-existent to most rural Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS: The majority of Alaska's rural, off-road system communities are either ocean or riverine based; relying on marine transportation to freight heavy cargo such as fuel, building materials for housing and public buildings, groceries, vehicles and dry goods; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's marine coastal communities also rely on marine facilities to support valuable resource based industries such as fishing, tourism and logging and that such facilities are necessary to sustainable economic development and growth as well as to remove accumulations of solid waste from rural communities; and

WHEREAS: The United States Government has recognized the importance of Essential Air Service in that it provides a vital link that connects, sustains, and maintains our communities, however the United States Government has not formally recognized nor established a program of Essential Marine Transportation that formally recognizes the critically important nature of marine transportation in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Many of our rural coastal communities do not receive regularly scheduled freight services resulting in no regular marine shipping services for Alaska's rural, marine-based communities. This in turns causes an exorbitantly high cost of living relating to the cost of shipping fuel, groceries, and staples, a very high cost of construction of new housing and public buildings due to mobilization and shipping costs, and the high cost of maintaining large accumulations of solid waste with no ability to remove them, including materials that can be recyclable; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the Annual 2012 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that it strongly recommends the creation of an Essential Marine Transportation Program by the United States Government to provide marine transportation subsidies, including the shipment of fuel to

support regular, vital, shipping services to Alaska's coastal and riverine communities, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the Annual 2012 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that in all Transportation Planning by the State of Alaska priority consideration given to marine projects such as docks and harbors for Alaska's rural communities that are considered essential to supporting Essential Marine Transportation and resource-based industries.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG-KANA ROUNDTABLE

CONVENTION COMMITTEE: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-34

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR PARNELL AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE ALASKA RURAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE TELEVISION NETWORK IS FUNDED TO CONVERT TO DIGITAL SERVICE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS) has provided free, over-the-air television service to rural Alaska communities for many years, and is still a primary, affordable information source for many users; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS is owned by the State of Alaska, and the state relies on it as part of its emergency broadcast system; and
- WHEREAS:** Many villages have had to pay for repairs for ARCS's state-owned equipment, as well as provide power and housing for the equipment, and there is no currently identified funding source for the conversion; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS is the Alaska Rural Communications Service, a television service formerly known as RATNet, which the State of Alaska owns and operates as a public communications service to bush and rural communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has operated ARCS in partnerships with rural village community organizations and urban television broadcasters for over three decades; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS continues to provide a valuable service to bush Alaska, especially the most vulnerable and at-risk residents in remote areas, as a free-to-watch over the air television service; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS delivers vital weather and emergency information, as well as news, public affairs, entertainment and educational programming in some of Alaska's most remote and economically depressed regions.; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS is distributed by digital satellite into communities where the low power local distribution transmitters (LPTV) are still analog, the operation of these transmitters is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS's low power transmitters in the villages are still analogue, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has established a deadline of September 1, 2015 for converting all analogue services to digital and failure to convert to digital will result in being shut off by FCC; and

- WHEREAS:** Digital conversion would offer expanded services to viewers with additional channels inside the same bandwidth used for analog; and
- WHEREAS:** Digital conversion would modernize the aging analog transmitter fleet while continuing to make good use of the installed ARCS satellite infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS:** Successful conversion prior to the FCC deadline will require planning, swift action and significant funding; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska's initial investment in RATNet produced three decades of service to bush and rural Alaska that continues as ARCS today; and
- WHEREAS:** Digital transmission has been the industry standard for distributing television to urban American homes for several years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that, it urges Governor Sean Parnell and the Alaska State Legislature to ensure the Alaska Rural Communications Service is provide sufficient funds to convert to digital services by the Federal Communications Commission deadline;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the State of Alaska to convert the ARCS analog LPTV fleet to digital, modernizing the aging infrastructure and ensuring that ARCS viewers in bush and rural Alaska can continue to receive this vital, free-to-watch over the air television service long after the Federally Mandated Analog Transmitter turn-off date of September 1, 2015.

SUBMITTED BY: HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-35

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S RECENT CHANGE IN INTERPRETATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 636(j)(11)(B)(iii)(II)
- WHEREAS:** 15 U.S.C. § 636(j)(11)(B)(iii)(II) prohibits an individual with an Alaska Native Corporation ("ANC") or Tribe from managing more than two participants in the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 8(a) Business Development program; and
- WHEREAS:** An ANC was recently informed by the SBA that, due to a change in its interpretation of 15 U.S.C. § 636(j)(11)(B)(iii)(II), an individual cannot serve as President on more than two entities which are participating in the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program (Program Participants); and
- WHEREAS:** The new interpretation that a President cannot serve on more than two Program Participants is inconsistent with the plain language of 15 U.S.C. § 636(j)(11)(B)(iii)(II), which prohibits only those individuals responsible for the "management and daily operations" of Program Participants from managing more than two Program Participants; and
- WHEREAS:** If Congress's intent had been for a blanket prohibition against an individual holding the title of President from having any involvement with more than two Program Participants, Congress would have so provided in the statute; and
- WHEREAS:** The interpretation contradicts direct guidance from the SBA to ANCs over a period of many years for the ANCs to exercise control and oversight of subsidiaries by having representation at the subsidiary level; and
- WHEREAS:** In addition to the potential loss of control and leadership, this new interpretation will result in significant additional costs and inefficiencies for Program Participants, including but not limited to:
- Costs and time associated with acquiring Top Secret clearance and hiring individuals with Top Secret clearance;
 - Costs associated with promoting "General Managers" to "Presidents";
 - Costs and inefficiencies to hire additional people to be in compliance with SBA form 912 (good character) and FAR 52.209-5;
 - Inefficiencies associated with "management by consensus" rather than one top executive; and
- WHEREAS:** The new interpretation is a major change in the SBA program without the required consultation with the ANC's and tribal entities; and

WHEREAS: If the new interpretation is followed, it will affect literally hundreds of current Program Participants who will be in violation of this “new” rule; and

WHEREAS: No logical explanation has been provided to ANC or tribal entities for the new interpretation of 15 U.S.C. § 636(j)(11)(B)(iii)(II);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives does hereby oppose the SBA’s “new” interpretation of 15 U.S.C. § 636(j)(11)(B)(iii)(II).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the President of the Alaska Federation of Natives is authorized and directed to contact the Administrator of the SBA to express opposition to the SBA’s “new” interpretation of 15 U.S.C. § 636(j)(11)(B)(iii)(II).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Federation of Natives approach Alaska’s Congressional Delegation and ask them to contact the Administrator of the SBA to express opposition to the SBA’s “new” interpretation of 15 U.S.C. § 636(j)(11)(B)(iii)(II).

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION AND BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



OTHER



**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

RESOLUTION 12-36

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Legal Services Corporation's (ALSC's) twenty-four lawyers in eleven offices around the state serve a population of over 168,000 Alaskans living below 200% of the poverty threshold, including more than 40,000 Alaska Natives; and,
- WHEREAS:** Alaskans potentially eligible for ALSC's services face approximately 65,000 legal problems each year and ALSC's current resources only stretch far enough to help about 6,300 people each year; and,
- WHEREAS:** Each year ALSC must turn away over 600 qualified individuals with critical legal needs due to its limited resources; and,
- WHEREAS:** The vast majority of ALSC's cases involve the basic human necessities of family safety, shelter, food, access to medical care, and income maintenance; and,
- WHEREAS:** Although the May 2000 Alaska Supreme Court Access to Civil Justice Task Force Report recommended that ALSC be funded at \$5 million annually, ALSC's actual funding is far less than that at only \$3.6 million; and
- WHEREAS:** Several regional Native nonprofits, including Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents and Maniilaq Association have made significant financial and in-kind contributions over the years to support local ALSC offices in the communities of Bethel, Dillingham, Nome and Kotzebue; and others, including the CIRI, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, and the Nome Eskimo Community have otherwise provided support for ALSC; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for FY 2012, approved by Governor Parnell, in the amount of \$550,000, but this amount is far less than needed to assure that all Alaskans have access to equal justice and it is unclear whether this will be sustained in future fiscal years; and
- WHEREAS:** Every additional \$100,000 of funding enables ALSC to directly benefit 182 people; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN urges Governor Parnell to retain and increase the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed FY 2013 budget, urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding, and urges Congress to award sufficient funding to the federal Legal Services Corporation to support Alaska Legal Services Corporation's mission of providing free legal services on vital issues to low income Alaskans.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-37

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)
- WHEREAS:** The Bering Strait has seen an increase in ocean vessel traffic due to the opening of the Arctic with economic development opportunities in resource development along with international scientific research and tourism; Marine Exchange of Alaska updated records indicate that traffic traversing through the Bering Straits in 2009 was 262; 2010 at 242; and 2011 at 239; The Barents Sea Observer reported 34 vessels traversed through the Northern Sea route in 2011; and
- WHEREAS:** The Port of Nome, Alaska has seen an increase in ocean vessel traffic with recorded docking data since 1990 at 30 port calls with the highest dockings in 2009 at 304 port calls and 2010 at 296 port calls; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska's Legislature passed HJR 22 in 2009 urging the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; the State of Alaska's Northern Waters Task Force also recommends that the United States Senate ratify UNCLOS; and
- WHEREAS:** The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea permits member nations to claim an exclusive economic zone out to 200 nautical miles from shore, with an exclusive sovereign right to explore, manage, and develop all living and non-living resources within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ); and
- WHEREAS:** UNCLOS establishes general obligations for safeguarding the marine environment and protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas, and creates a legal regime for controlling mineral resources exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction; and
- WHEREAS:** 162 nations have ratified UNCLOS and the United States became a signatory in 1994 but has not ratified the treaty, and the United States is the only Arctic Nation that has not ratified the treaty; and
- WHEREAS:** Other nations are conducting resource research north of the 200 mile EEZ that is connected to the United States continental shelf; and
- WHEREAS:** Until the United States ratifies UNCLOS the United States may not have the authority to promote its claims to an extended area of the continental shelf, refute the claim of authority by other nations to exercise greater control over

the Arctic, or take a permanent seat on the International Seabed Authority Council; and

WHEREAS: Until the United States ratifies UNCLOS, the United States cannot participate in deliberations to amend provisions of the Convention that relate to; and

- 1) Mineral resources in the Arctic Ocean
- 2) Conducting essential scientific research
- 3) Right of the US to the use of the seas
- 4) Navigation and transit regime
- 5) Effects of the use of the seas in world economic development
- 6) Environmental protection
- 7) National security

WHEREAS: UNCLOS will not interfere with the intelligence-gathering efforts of the United States or the navigational freedom of the United States military; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN urges the State of Alaska to engage the United State of America to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and urges the President of the United States of America to make the ratification the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea an Administrative priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be sent to the Governor, the Alaska State Legislature, Inuit Circumpolar Council Alaska Office, and Alaska Congressional Delegation, President of the United States, Secretary of State and the Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC AND NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORP

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-38

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

TITLE: REQUESTING THE REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE YUKON RIVER SALMON TREATY TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR LOW-CHINOOK SALMON PRODUCTIVITY YEARS

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and

WHEREAS: Chinook salmon are essential food security resources for the people of the Yukon River; and

WHEREAS: The people of the Yukon River harvest in excess of 50,000 Chinook salmon during normal productivity years and approximately 44,000 in low productivity years; and

WHEREAS: The United States of America, acting through the State of Alaska, Department of Fish & Game, is obligated to pass through the Eagle Sonar station and into Canada, 42,500 to 55,000 Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS: Within the last ten years, the state of Alaska Department of Fish & Game has imposed severe restrictions on the communities of the Yukon River lasting in duration up to two weeks to reach this international obligation; and

WHEREAS: This endeavor has inevitably created a fisheries management dilemma of reaching border obligations or allow-for limited subsistence fishing; and

WHEREAS: During the Association of Village Council Presidents March convention with a theme of "State of our Salmon," the convention developed a resolution authorizing the creation of the Yukon River Inter-tribal Fisheries Commissions; and

WHEREAS: These fisheries commissions will include representatives from all "First Nations" to determine cross border allocations and in-river allocations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., request that the Governor of Alaska, The U.S. Department of the Interior, the State Department, the Department of Commerce, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game fully support and cooperate with the Yukon and Kuskokwim River Fisheries commissions and

support their expertise to review and advise on issues related to the Yukon River Salmon Treaty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the states of Alaska, acting through the Governor of Alaska, endorse and fully support the fishery commissions with funding and by sharing its scientific and historic data.

SUBMITTED BY: Association of Village Council Presidents

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2012 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-39

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES AMEND THE BYLAWS OF THE CORPORATION TO SET AFN CO-CHAIR TERM LIMITS, LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE TERMS SERVED AND IMPLEMENT STAGGERED ELECTION YEARS
- WHEREAS:** The 2008 Alaska Federation of Native Convention delegates moved and approved a motion directing the AFN Board of Directors to review the structure of AFN, including the practice of selection of co-chairs of the organization, the findings of such review to be reported to the 2009 Convention; and
- WHEREAS:** Resolution 09-05 recognized the need to address current election practices for the Co-Chairs of AFN; and
- WHEREAS:** The full AFN Board has the power and authority to amend the Bylaws of AFN and amend its election rules and practices as related to the current Co-Chairs election practice; and
- WHEREAS:** The full AFN Board has the power and authority to amend the Bylaws of AFN as duly noticed to the delegates at the 2012 Convention and adopt the amendments at the next meeting of the AFN Board of Directors in December 2012; and
- WHEREAS:** This resolution notices the amendment to the Bylaws to limit the Co-Chairs to two (2) year terms; and
- WHEREAS:** This resolution notices the amendment to the Bylaws to limit the Co-Chairs to hold three (3) consecutive terms; and
- WHEREAS:** This resolution notices the amendment to the Bylaws to provide Co-Chairs be elected in staggered election years; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2012 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that this resolution brought forth appropriately meets the mandate of resolution 09-05 to address the election process as related to the Co-Chairs of AFN; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these proposed amendments to the bylaws be adopted by the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors at the next meeting of the full AFN Board of Directors in December 2012.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA, INC.

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ANSCA/TRIBAL



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-40

- TITLE:** AMENDMENT TO SECTION 14(c)(1) of ANCSA ADDING A “SUNSET CLAUSE” FOR ALL 14(c)(1) CLAIMENTS
- WHEREAS:** Under the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), section 14(c)(1) requires a Village Corporation (or subsequently merged Regional Corporation, hereinafter “Corporation”) upon receipt of a land patent or patents, to “first convey to any Native or non-Native occupant, without consideration, title to the surface estate in the tract occupied as of December 18, 1971...as a primary place of residence, or as a primary place of business, or as a subsistence campsite, or as headquarters for reindeer husbandry;” and
- WHEREAS:** Section 14(c) of ANCSA further states, “There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of providing technical assistance to Village Corporations established pursuant to this Act in order that they may fulfill the reconveyance requirements of this subsection[;]” and
- WHEREAS:** Requests for funding to the Alaska Delegation and other federal agencies and officials to fulfill the 14(c) mandates have been either ignored, denied, or other explanation given as to why the funding is not available; and
- WHEREAS:** To allow for 14(c)(1) claims to be properly vetted, Corporations are required to post application periods for individuals to submit applications in a timely manner; and
- WHEREAS:** In Ogle v. Salamatof Native Ass’n, Inc., 906 F.Supp. 1321 (D. Alaska 1995), the Court noted that “neither ANCSA nor the regulations provide the village [Corporations] with explicit directions regarding the types of notice that must be given” (906 F. Supp 1328); and
- WHEREAS:** The regulations implemented by the Secretary of the Interior to guide the 14(c) transfers provide, among other things, (1) that village corporations file a map delineating its land selections (“map of boundaries”), including tracts that are to be reconveyed under section 14(c), and (2) that conflicts arising between the village corporation and transferees will be resolved prior to the submission of the map (43 CFR § 2650.5-4(c)(1)); and

WHEREAS: The regulations further state that decisions made by a Village Corporation to reconvey land under section 14(c) of ANCSA shall not be subject to judicial review unless such actions is initiated before a court of competent jurisdiction within one year after the date of the filing of the map of boundaries (43 CFR § 1632(b)); and

WHEREAS: Without the proper funding to have the lands surveyed as required under the regulations to identify the map of boundaries, Village Corporations are still subject to delayed 14(c)(1) claims from individuals arguing lack of notice, and

WHEREAS: Even after 40 years since the passage of ANCSA and extensive application periods have been posted by the Corporations, fulfilling the notice requirements, Corporations continue to experience lengthy and expensive litigation challenges focusing on the application process and notification requirements, particularly from individuals did not submit a timely application and that cannot support a claim of missing an application period due to any reason of extraordinary or unexpected circumstances; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention urge the Alaska Congressional Delegation to author and support an amendment to section 14(c)(1) of ANCSA adding a “sunset clause” for all 14(c)(1) claimants similar to that found in 43 CFR § 1632(b), that would establish a date certain after the Corporation fulfills its notice requirements that would establish a certain end date to all additional claims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Native, Inc., that AFN hereby request that our Alaska Delegation advocate and secure funding for Alaska Native Corporations to complete the boundary surveys required before a map of boundaries can be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management; and

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-41

TITLE: CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-TRIBAL AND ALASKA NATIVE FISH COMMISSIONS

Whereas: AVCP held a special convention on March 6, 7 & 8, 2012 on the “State of our Salmon” for the purposes of identifying ways to help conserve our Chinook salmon and how to incorporate Tribes in the management of salmon throughout their migratory route; and

Whereas: Healthy and abundant Chinook salmon and other fish stocks are essential to the cultural, nutritional and economic well-being and way of life of the tribal villages and peoples who live along these river drainages and coastal communities; and

Whereas: Food security is a basic human right recognized by the United Nations and affirmed by the United States in the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

Whereas: The Chinook and other fish stocks across the state of Alaska are in a serious state of decline, resulting in closed commercial fisheries and subsistence fisheries restricted to the point where villages are not attaining the amount needed to satisfy their basic needs; and

Whereas: The projected Chinook runs across the state for the next season are projected to demonstrate a continued decline, and recent information demonstrates that this trend has existed over the last decade or more; and

Whereas: The traditional knowledge and wisdom of the Elders, passed down through their ancestors over countless generations, is invaluable for understanding the salmon, their habitat and best management practices for restoring Chinook runs to their historical numbers; and

Whereas: The federally recognized Tribes located along the rivers and coastal communities have inherent sovereign authority over their members and are authorized under federal law with powers and rights unique to tribal governments; and

Whereas: The First Nations Peoples of the rivers and coastal communities also depend on the Chinook runs for their way of life, and the spawning grounds in Canada are

vital for healthy Chinook runs throughout the river systems and coastal communities; and

Whereas: The Pacific Salmon Treaty of 1985 between the United States and Canada for the sharing of Chinook salmon in areas affected by the treaty, and unity between Alaska tribes and Canadian First Nation Peoples affirms the significant role of affected Native peoples in restoring Chinook runs on the river and coastal areas to their historical levels; and

Whereas: Other tribes in the United States have faced similar crisis in the depletion of fish stocks and other natural resources and have created Inter-Tribal Commissions, such as the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, to meaningfully and fully engage the affected tribes in the management, regulation, recovery and restoration of fish stocks and other resources; and

Whereas: Several organizations on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers are engaged in resource management issues, such as the Yukon River Drainage Fisherman's Association, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, the Kuskokwim River Watershed Council and the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, and others are making valuable contributions to local and tribal management involvement for these rivers and coastal areas; and

Whereas: The experience of other tribes demonstrates that one of the foundations for a successful Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is a strong science program informed by the traditional knowledge of tribal peoples, and the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative, a research co-management organization formed by Tribal, State and federal entities, has provided strong science program for these tribal organizations; and

Whereas: The tribal leaders convened at the AFN Convention wish to ensure that healthy and abundant Chinook and other salmon stocks are available for future generations so that they may continue the fishing way of life that has sustained the Alaska Tribes since time immemorial, and

Whereas: The tribal leaders gathered at this AFN convention recognize that the state of Chinook salmon runs require full tribal government involvement in the management of their fishing rights, resources and habitat, and necessitates the establishment of Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions, through agreement and participation of all tribes within the river drainage systems and coastal areas; and

Whereas: The tribal leaders gathered at the special convention recognize that forming the Commissions and taking the management and allocation actions necessary, will require unity, patience, progressive management, and shared sacrifices; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Alaska Federation of Natives work in close cooperation with Alaska Tribes to create Inter-Tribal and Alaska Native Fish Commission for Alaska's river systems and coastal communities ; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions are to be guided by the following principles:

- 1. Ensuring a unified participation of all the tribes that depend on the salmon runs for the river, including the First Nations Peoples of Canada, where appropriate;**
- 2. Establishing maximized tribal participation in all aspects of salmon management through meaningful co-management with state and federal management agencies;**
- 3. Establishing a strong science program and biological expertise guided by traditional scientific and biological knowledge in cooperation with Alaska's organizations and non-governmental organizations like the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative;**
- 4. Fully engaging with the parties under the United States and Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty;**
- 5. Developing organizational and resource management plans in coordination and consultation with established non-governmental organization conducting research and co-management programs ;**
- 6. Soliciting counsel and assistance from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the Northwest Pacific Intertribal Fish Commission, the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Chief Billy Frank and other tribal leaders and tribal organizations;**
- 7. Ensuring the participation of tribal Elders and youth;**
- 8. Strengthening tribal customs, traditions, values, and preserving and revitalizing Indigenous knowledge;**
- 9. Ensuring, as a priority and primary purpose, the conservation and restoration of Chinook salmon and other salmon stocks to abundant and sustainable levels sufficient to provide for the nutritional, food security, cultural and economic needs in perpetuity;**
- 10. Assuming a primary role in determining how salmon will be allocated among the tribes when the sustainable harvest is insufficient to satisfy all uses;**
- 11. Developing tribal capacity to regulate and adjudicate their use of natural resources;**
- 12. Protecting habitat throughout the range of the salmon stocks, including marine waters and habitat, and considering establishing marine protected areas; and**
- 13. Seeking secure and continuing funding for the Commissions and research and restoration projects from the Alaska Congressional delegation, the Alaska legislature, federal and state agencies, and private foundations; and**

14. Educating the federal and state management agencies, tribal membership, tribal leadership, and the general public as to the tribal uses of salmon resources, the value to all users of abundant and sustainable salmon stocks, the need to protect and preserve healthy habitat, and the essential contribution the inter-tribal fish commissions serve to achieve these goals.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





**ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES**

**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

RESOLUTION 12-42

- TITLE:** PRIOR CONTAMINATION OF LANDS CONVEYED PURSUANT TO THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act ("ANCSA") is universally recognized as a land settlement; and
- WHEREAS:** Pursuant to ANCSA, the federal government conveyed to many Alaska Native Corporations land that had been contaminated by the federal government or from activities allowed or overseen by the federal government prior to their conveyance under ANCSA; and
- WHEREAS:** During the 1990's, Congress acknowledged that contaminated lands were being conveyed to Alaska Native Corporations pursuant to ANCSA; and
- WHEREAS:** Section 103 of Public Law 104-42 (codified at 43 U.S.C. 1629f) required the Secretary of the Interior to provide a detailed report on contaminants on lands prior to their conveyance to Alaska Native Corporations; and
- WHEREAS:** In December 1998, the Department of the Interior submitted a report to Congress which estimated approximately 650 contaminated sites were on lands conveyed pursuant to ANCSA; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Corporations, as the landowners, are subject to liability under federal and Alaska State law for the contaminated condition of their lands; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has instituted several enforcement actions against Alaska Native Corporations for the cleanup of ANCSA conveyed lands which had been contaminated prior to their conveyance; and
- WHEREAS:** Several Alaska Native Corporations have incurred considerable expense in cleaning up contaminated sites, negotiating land exchanges and/or battling with the federal and state government to clean up sites on a case-by-case basis; and
- WHEREAS:** In recognition of this problem, Congressman Don Young stated, "it was clearly not the intention of ANCSA to extinguish Native claims by conveying contaminated property to recipients;" and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives does hereby support the introduction and enactment of federal legislation acknowledging that the federal government is financially responsible for the remediation of contaminated lands conveyed pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and shall utilize Alaska Native remediation companies when possible; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Federation of Natives approach Alaska's Congressional Delegation and ask them to approach the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Defense to add such contaminated Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands as superfund projects.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE CEO ASSOCIATION, THE EYAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 12-43

ALASKA FEDERATION

OF NATIVES

TITLE:

GIFTING OF ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT STOCK

WHEREAS: Section 7(h)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended, ("ANCSA") authorizes gifting of Settlement Common Stock from a holder to "his or her child, grandchild, great-grandchild, niece, nephew, or ... brother or sister;" and

WHEREAS: such language does not authorize a non-Native holder of stock to gift the shares back to those individuals to whom the Native who last held the Settlement Common Stock could have gifted such stock; and

WHEREAS: on numerous occasions, non-Native holders of Settlement Common Stock have expressed interest in gifting the Settlement Common Stock to the descendant or descendants or other relatives of the last Native holder of the Settlement Common Stock; and

WHEREAS: the spirit and intent of ANCSA was for Settlement Common Stock to be held by Alaska Natives and descendants of Alaska Natives; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives does hereby support efforts to amend ANCSA to allow non-Native holders of Settlement Common Stock to gift Settlement Common Stock to (1) the same individuals to whom the last Native holder of the Settlement Common Stock could have gifted such Settlement Common Stock, and (2) the descendant or descendants of such individuals.

SUBMITTED BY: THE EYAK CORPORATION, GANA-A' YOO, LIMITED, TOGHOTTHELE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2012 ANNUAL CONVENTION

12-44

ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

- TITLE:** EXPANDING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL EDUCATION AND LOCAL PROGRAMS
- WHEREAS:** The statewide 2011 Alaska Native high school 4 year graduation rate is 50.07;
and
- WHEREAS:** Of the 131 small high schools, 93 have 30 or fewer students; and
- WHEREAS:** Of the 2,662 students in small high schools, 95.38% are Alaska Native students;
and
- WHEREAS:** Almost 1,000 students participate in residential programs of different types throughout the state, and different regions are developing regional programs that fit their needs and circumstance; and
- WHEREAS:** State policies have had a negative impact on small high schools and urban schools have very poor performance with regard to Alaska Native students; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native students learn in a variety of places, from small rural schools in the villages, to large urban schools in the cities, and distant boarding academies; and
- WHEREAS:** Each type of school has its own strengths and weaknesses. Though rural schools often are not provided the same resources as urban schools, they teach things that urban ones do not and they permit our youth to remain with their families and help ensure the continued vitality of our people, our homes, and our cultures; and
- WHEREAS:** Regardless of where one attends school, education is the foundation of opportunities for Alaska Natives and for all peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** Quality education should therefore be available to all who want it; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives have suffered discrimination and disparities in education, which, as recognized by the courts, has persisted to today; and
- WHEREAS:** Several programs throughout the state have had excellent results with short term, medium term and long term programs that connect rural and urban Alaska Native students with opportunities to advance their education; and

- WHEREAS** The current Alaska law only authorizes statewide residential programs through school districts to be eligible for state residential stipends; and
- WHEREAS:** It is essential that Alaska Native organizations operate educational programs for Alaska Native students to advance their opportunities; and
- WHEREAS:** The current stipend does not meet the operational cost needs of programs currently under operation; and
- WHEREAS:** Residential Learning Centers provide one option and offer the following benefits:
- Student access to short- and long-term courses and programs that small high schools are unable to deliver;
 - State education funding would remain in a student's home district or region.
 - Collaboration on course delivery and cost sharing;
 - Student access to technical centers, university campuses, job shadowing, and apprenticeships;
 - Year-round course delivery;
 - Increased opportunities for Performance Scholarship Program, CTE programs, social and service learning; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2012 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. (AFN), that AFN works with the Governor, his Administration, and the Alaska Legislature to rename 4 AAC 33.090 as follows: District-operated or non-profit operated residential programs that deliver in-district, regional, or statewide residential educational programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate to amend language in 4 AAC 33.090 to include in-district and regional residential educational programs as well as statewide residential educational programs, and that Alaska Native organizations are required to lead or partner with such programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate to amend language in 4 AAC 33.090 to provide student stipend funding to approved in-district and regional residential educational programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska establish in regulation an annual application period for districts wishing to establish a district, regional, or statewide residential school in compliance with 4 AAC 33.090; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current stipend be increased by at least 50% to adequately reflect the costs associated with operating residential programs; and

BE IT FINALLY FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN partner with individuals, groups, and other organizations that also believe in educational equality to ensure that Alaska Native Organizations are driving the residential programs for the benefit of Alaska Native students.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED

