

**2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION
FINAL RESOLUTIONS
OCTOBER 24, 2009**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

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2009 AFN CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

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AFN BOARD RESOLUTIONS

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-01

TITLE: THE PROTECTION OF ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES AND ACCESS TO, AND TAKINGS, OF CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL AND CULTURAL SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples developed rich cultures and enduring societies around their spiritual relationship to the land and resources; and

WHEREAS: Our harvest and utilization of natural resources has been the basis of our sustainable economies through thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: Customary and traditional subsistence hunting and fishing is vital to the survival of Alaska Native cultures and our communities' economic well being; and

WHEREAS: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples supports Indigenous rights to use and manage resources necessary for our food security; and

WHEREAS: The Marine Mammal Protection Act provides for Alaska Native heritage rights for Marine Mammals; and

WHEREAS: Section 4(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) extinguished aboriginal hunting and fishing rights; and

WHEREAS: Congress, through the Conference Report accompanying passage of ANCSA, declared its intent and expectation that the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Alaska should protect Alaska Native customary and traditional subsistence activities; and

WHEREAS: Congress enacted Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), which established a priority for rural resident subsistence users on federal lands and reserved navigable waters; and

WHEREAS: ANILCA authorizes the State of Alaska to regulate customary and traditional subsistence harvests on all lands and waters so long as such regulation is in compliance with the mandates outlined in Title VIII of ANILCA; and

WHEREAS: In 1990, the federal government was forced to assume management authority over customary and traditional subsistence activities on federal public lands and waters because the State of Alaska failed to adequately enact a subsistence priority for rural Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Subsistence Management Program is a multi-agency effort to provide the opportunity for a subsistence way of life by rural Alaskans on federal public lands and waters while maintaining healthy populations of fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS: The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture have delegated to the Federal Subsistence Board the authority to manage fish and wildlife for subsistence uses on federal public lands and waters in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Subsistence Board is the decision-making body that oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and is comprised of the regional directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Forest Service, and a chairman appointed by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Subsistence Board membership is now dominated by non-subsistence users and federal employees who lack an appreciation of the significance of traditional subsistence uses, and who have improperly sought to balance the needs of commercial, sport, pleasure and subsistence users, rather than trying to protect Alaska Native access to subsistence resources, as directed by their mandate under Title VIII of ANILCA; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska successfully promoted the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska that has seriously undermined Title VIII of ANILCA; and

WHEREAS: The current federal subsistence management scheme has failed to protect traditional subsistence users, and Alaska Natives are finding themselves subject to state citations for traditional subsistence practices that should be protected under Title VIII of ANILCA; and

WHEREAS: Immediate administrative and legislative action is necessary to protect Native traditional subsistence rights and uses;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that Alaska Federation of Natives shall pursue the following executive and legislative actions to:

1. Seek 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, access to, and takings of, customary and traditional subsistence resources by Alaska Natives, Alaska Native Corporations, and the federally recognized tribes; and
2. Seek immediate consultation between Alaska Native corporations, federally recognized tribes in Alaska, and the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce, to develop recommendations for a new subsistence management

scheme that will protect the traditional subsistence way of life of Alaska Natives and other rural residents, and that will ensure full participation of Alaska Natives in the management scheme; and

3. Seek to replace the Federal Subsistence Board with a federally-chartered or authorized entity whose membership will be comprised of subsistence users rather than federal employees; and
4. Encourage President Obama to issue an Executive Order that advises the Federal Subsistence Board and the Office of Subsistence Management that Title VIII is Indian Legislation enacted under the plenary authority of Congress over Indian Affairs, and that directs the Federal Subsistence Board and Office of Subsistence Management to implement a subsistence management scheme or program in accordance with the Executive Order; and
5. Revoke the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, and to remove the State's non-voting seat from the Federal Subsistence Board; and
6. Direct the Secretary of the Interior to fully implement his trust responsibility to Alaska Natives, Alaska Native Corporations and the federally recognized tribes, and to direct the employees within the Department of the Interior to honor this relationship; and
7. Direct the Secretary of the Interior to interpret broadly the scope of federal jurisdiction over the management of subsistence resources on public lands and reserved waters, and to extend by regulation the subsistence priority to waters that run through and adjacent to Native allotments and to waters upstream and downstream from federally reserved waters; and
8. Rescind the Federal Subsistence Board's determination that the Organized Village of Saxman; and any other Alaska Native village similarly affected, is not a rural community; and
9. Amend ANILCA to provide for Alaska Native Peoples customary and traditional hunting, fishing and gathering rights Plus Rural subsistence priority;
10. Seek legislation that provides Alaska Native Corporations the authority to opt into a provision ensuring a federally protected customary and traditional hunting and fishing right on corporation lands and associated waters for Alaska Natives associated with the ANCSA corporations, and legislation that allows for the taking of moose and other subsistence resources necessary for the potlatch and other ceremonies; and
11. Advocate for a state and federal Subsistence Support Program in rural Alaska to help offset the drastically increased cost of transportation to harvest subsistence foods; and

12. Amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to include designated voting seats on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for federally tribes and/or Alaska Native organizations representing rural subsistence users;
13. Fully fund co-management initiatives and infrastructure to ensure Alaska Native participation in the subsistence management process, and
14. Call for federal resources to be made available for research, protection and enhancement of subsistence resources in Alaska, and;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby directs the Alaska Federation of Natives that one of the top and ongoing priorities for Alaska Federation of Natives shall be to address this resolution regarding subsistence concerns of all Alaska Natives.

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

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-02

TITLE: DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE STRATEGY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SOCIAL SERVICES FOR ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS

WHEREAS: Alaska has been the homeland for Alaska Native peoples for tens of thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: Today Alaska Native peoples represent more than 19% of the total population in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Many of our people have suffered trauma in their lives that have led them to become homeless; and

WHEREAS: Since June 2009, 12 homeless individuals have died within the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska, seven of whom were Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Many other Alaska Native people from throughout the State of Alaska, including individuals living in Nome and Fairbanks, have died on the streets while they were homeless; and

WHEREAS: Twenty-two percent of Alaska Native people earn incomes that are below federal poverty line—nearly three times the rate of non-Native Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The State Medical Examiner's office has concluded that acute alcohol and drug intoxication, acute and chronic ethanolism, and hypothermia due to environmental exposure contributed to the deaths of our people; and

WHEREAS: The Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) reviewed all of its records relating to these individuals, and found that eight of twelve people who died on the streets of Anchorage had received services at CITC, three of whom sought treatment for chronic alcohol dependency and five of whom were trying to find work or education, and that traumatic brain injury was implicated in the condition of at least three of these individuals; and

WHEREAS: The deaths of these individuals clearly demonstrate that there are huge gaps in the social safety nets in our communities; and

WHEREAS: Prevention and intervention are critical components of an adequate continuum of care, and lack of prevention/intervention and treatment funds means more work for criminal justice, public safety, emergency medicine, and intense treatment services, all of which are costly, reactive, and more traumatic for those being

served (a study conducted by McDowell Group concluded that untreated substance abuse resulted in costs of \$738 million to the Alaskan economy during 2003); and

WHEREAS: A statewide reduction in services, especially in rural areas, has pushed the problem into Anchorage; and

WHEREAS: Sources such as the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, and the Alaska Center for Rural Health all cite the serious impacts of decreasing resources for treatment, including waiting periods, increased case loads and resulting staff burn-outs, and displaced rural families; and

WHEREAS: There are only 373 treatment beds available statewide; and

WHEREAS: Immediate administrative and legislative action is necessary to develop a comprehensive, statewide strategy to develop and provide adequate social services for all Alaska Native people who are homeless; and

WHEREAS: Adequate and permanent shelter is a basic need, and its absence has a deleterious effect upon physical and mental health, personal development, and the ability to exercise individual rights and obligations; and

WHEREAS: Groups who have historically been discriminated against, such as Alaska Natives and other ethnic minorities, persons with mental illness, women, children and youth, have been disproportionately affected by the lack of affordable and suitable housing; and,

WHEREAS: Homelessness may contribute to and may result from severe emotional distress, traumatic brain injury, and mental illness; and,

WHEREAS: The number of individuals and families who are without permanent shelter continues to grow, and the number of people at high risk of becoming homeless is even larger; and,

WHEREAS: Psychologists possess models, theories, techniques knowledge and best practices that can ameliorate the problems of homeless persons; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that Alaska Federation of Natives shall pursue the following executive and legislative action to:

1. Seek immediate emergency and long term funding to provide essential recovery, housing, and treatment services to homeless populations; and

2. Immediately address the reduction in statewide services for alcohol and drug treatment, mental illness, and homelessness; and
3. Ensure that housing vouchers are available through regional housing corporations to address the housing needs of homeless populations; and,
4. Stimulate research to gather accurate information about the nature and scope of homeless groups such as children, displaced gay and lesbian youth, and victimized women and children, and apply these research findings to consumer-related intervention programs and policy recommendations; and,
5. Recommend immediate action to federal, state, and local officials based on current knowledge to re-house the homeless, utilize psychologists and other groups experienced in working with poor and ethnic minority communities in policy research and intervention to assist the homeless, and to provide mental health and supportive services to enable the homeless to improve their ability to maintain a stable and dignified life styles; and,
6. Advocate that public funds be provided to finance not only emergency responses to the crisis, but also try to implement preventive programs to keep the number of homeless persons and families from growing larger; and,
7. Disseminate accurate information about homelessness to psychologists, policy makers and the public to alert them to social phenomena that exacerbate the problem and suggest both clinical and systems interventions for those who suffer the consequences of poverty and homelessness; and
8. Encourage and endorse legislation calling for a state of Alaska conference and a White House Conference on homelessness.

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

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-03

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF NATIVE AMERICANS' FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE SBA 8(a) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Congress has a legitimate interest in promoting the economic and political self-sufficiency of Native Americans as a way to fulfill the government's unique obligations toward Native Americans; and

WHEREAS: In hundreds of treaties with Indian tribes across the country, and through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the U.S. government committed to provide for the economic betterment of Native Americans and Alaska Natives, the majority of whom have been stripped of countless millions of acres of their Native lands; and

WHEREAS: Providing access to federal contracting opportunities to qualified Native companies provides critical incentives that stimulate economic growth in Native communities, provides economic opportunities for Native American enterprises, provides educational scholarships, and encourages a culture of entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS: One of the most successful federal initiatives has been to include Native Americans (Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations and Native Hawaiian Organizations) in the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development program; and

WHEREAS: Native American enterprises have struggled to break into the highly concentrated federal contracting marketplace, which is dominated by a handful of large companies, and only recently have some Native American enterprises become successful participants in the 8(a) program; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Corporations and tribal enterprises receive just over one percent (1%) of all federal contract awards, compared to the five largest federal contractors who received twenty (20%) of the contract dollars awarded in 2007; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Corporations and Tribal enterprises provide quality performance at cost efficient rates to federal customers, while they return significant benefits back to Native American communities, rendering the Native 8(a) program a rare example of a federal economic program that works; and

WHEREAS: Despite unwavering support from Alaska's Congressional delegation, there have been ongoing efforts by some members of Congress to repeal or significantly modify the Native 8(a) program based on biased information, and heedless of the federal government's unique obligations to Native Americans; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes that the participation of Native Americans in the SBA 8(a) program has been an important tool in building a strong Native economy and continues to provide substantial benefits to their Native shareholders; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Federation of Natives respectfully requests the continued support of Congress to maintain Alaska Native Corporations, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations in the 8(a) program for the benefit of America's Native communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives strongly encourages the Small Business Administration to seek ways to promote and expand participation in the 8(a) program by Alaska Native village and regional corporations and tribally chartered businesses; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives strongly opposes any Congressional amendments, regulatory changes or other means to diminish, alter, denounce, or abolish the current provisions established in the federal procurement system allowing Native Americans to create economic development for the benefit of their respective Native communities.

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

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-04

- TITLE:** ADDING ALASKA'S PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND PROGRAM TO THE LIST OF RESOURCES AND INCOME EXCLUDED BY LAW, UNDER CFR TITLE 7, PART 253
- WHEREAS:** In 2007, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium became the first new Indian Tribal Organization (ITO) in over 17 years to be added to the US Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Services' list of ITO agencies, to administer the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and the first ITO in Alaska history to introduce FDPIR to Alaska's federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS:** The FDPIR is an alternative to the USDA/FNS' food stamp program, and only federally recognized tribal agencies or state government agencies, where an ITO is not available, can administer the FDPIR program within their respective service areas; and
- WHEREAS:** All household applicants for FDPIR must meet income eligibility standards set by the USDA/FNS similar to the income standards set nationwide by USDA/FNS for the food stamp program (FSP); and
- WHEREAS:** Because of the high cost of living in Alaska, USDA/FNS has conscientiously set higher income eligibility standards for both FSP and FDPIR programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Most households that choose to participate in one program or the other (i.e., who do not meet categorical eligibility) become automatically *income ineligible* for either program based on federal income guidelines when all household members receive their annual Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) check, which can range from \$750 and \$1,900 annually; and
- WHEREAS:** Veterans who receive service and non-service connected benefits are also often determined to be income ineligible as a result of PFD checks; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska State Legislature passed legislation in 1982 to ensure that the PFD did not adversely affect anyone receiving public assistance, which later became known as the PFD Hold Harmless Program, and which provides *that any person whose public assistance benefits were reduced because of counting the PFD as income or resources would be eligible to receive state-funded cash or medical assistance equal to the lost benefits, for up to four months*; and
- WHEREAS:** While the PFD Hold Harmless Program applies to and benefits "any person who loses food stamp or SSI benefits because they receive or keep PFD money" it currently does not apply to or benefit any person(s) who lose their FDPIR or veterans benefits because they kept their PFD money; and

WHEREAS: To address the inequity in income eligibility for some applicants, the United States Congress has identified and excluded resources and income from the criteria of FDPIR eligibility as noted under CFR 253.6(d)(2)(iv) and CFR 253.6(e)(2)(iii); and

WHEREAS: Both the regional and national FDPIR associations, i.e., the Western Association of Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and National Association of Food Distribution Programs, have passed similar resolutions of support for ANTHC to approach Congress to seek An income and resource waiver for the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend in an amount up to \$2,000 for each person who applies for but cannot receive FDPIR benefits because of the challenge created by the PFD; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes the challenge beset by FDPIR eligible households living in Alaska, who, in an effort to secure nutritional food assistance from ANTHC's FDPIR tribal agencies, are barred from FDPIR benefits because the Alaska PFD is counted as either income or a resource, which makes them ineligible for assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives Delegates in attendance at the 2009 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention support congressional legislation to add the State of Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend (in an amount up to \$2,000 per individual) to the list of excluded resources under CFR 253.6(d)(2)(iv); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports congressional legislation to add the State of Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend (in an amount up to \$2,000 per individual) to the list of excluded incomes under CFR 253.6(e)(2)(iii).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Federation of Natives supports Congressional legislation to add the state of Alaska's Permanent Fund (in an amount up to \$2,000 per individual) to the list of excluded resources or incomes when determining eligibility for veterans' benefits.

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

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09 05

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION TO EVALUATE THE REPRESENTATION OF ALASKA NATIVES IN THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives was founded in 1966, originally named the Alaska Federation of Native Associations, to protect the common interests of and negotiate a fair settlement for land claims on behalf of Alaska Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1967, the Alaska Federation of Native Associations later became the Alaska Federation of Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Upon passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, AFN expanded to include the newly created regional corporations as members of the organization; and
- WHEREAS:** At the time, AFN was structured to represent diverse Native groups within Alaska, including tribal organizations, regional non-profit organizations, individual village tribes, urban Native groups, and tribes that had federal reservations; and
- WHEREAS:** Today, there are newly established organizations that also represent specific interests of the Alaska Native population; and
- WHEREAS:** The scope, purpose, and structure of AFN continues to evolve over time to meet the needs of its Alaska Native constituents; and,
- WHEREAS:** The issues facing Alaska Native people change over time and with each generation; and,
- WHEREAS:** From time to time, the Alaska Federation of Natives must review its representation and organizational structure in order to ensure that it has the flexibility and resources to allow it to remain relevant and to represent the Alaska Native population of today; and
- WHEREAS:** The “Resolution” process for raising issues and creating the priority system for AFN’s state and federal platforms has remained the same since 1966; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2002, the AFN Board of Directors recognized a need to address the reorganization of AFN, and held a Leadership Retreat from which a series of recommendations were put forth, and have not been acted upon; and
- WHEREAS:** The 2008 Alaska Federation of Natives 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:** The current resolution procedures can be better structured to prioritize the issues, and create achievable outcomes, greater cooperation and dialogue between AFN delegates and all stakeholders; and

WHEREAS: It is imperative that Alaska Native people employ a disciplined approach to addressing Native issues to protect the credibility of our people and Alaska Federation of Natives; and,

WHEREAS: As Alaska Native people we foster strong leaders and embrace new leadership as an investment in our future; and,

WHEREAS: As Alaska Native people we are strong, resilient, and flexible; and,

WHEREAS: As Alaska Native people it is our responsibility to ensure that our future generations have the tools necessary to succeed, like our ancestors before us; and,

WHEREAS: The Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives recognize the need to:

- (i) strengthen and update the structure of AFN through the inclusion of additional Alaska Native organizations representing Native interests; and
- (ii) align the AFN Board of Directors; and
- (iii) review the resolution process; and
- (iv) strengthen, respect and empower tribal governments and tribal nations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN recognizes the need to invite organizations established for the benefit of Alaska Native peoples to join AFN as member organizations entitled to equitable representation on the AFN Board of Directors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the AFN Board of Directors shall undertake a process to reorganize AFN by 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the AFN Board of Directors be directed to examine the bylaws of the organization and determine changes to be made that are consistent with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the practice of selection of officers of AFN remain consistent with the structure contained in the amended AFN bylaws, adopted on May 19, 1994; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN:

- Give full votes to village corporations and Tribal governments times enrollment
- A governance committee be formed with one representative from each region
 - i) to develop restructuring AFN membership rules
 - ii) to develop rules for elections process
 - iii) to develop rules for term limits of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary.
- Formation of a five member Elections Committee to oversee future elections

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that recommendations brought forth appropriately align the mission, vision, goal, and structure as it relates to operations, the convention and priorities, and to fully fund the operations of a modern Native advocacy organization in order to carry forward the good work of the organization in a manner that creates more dialogue and cooperation between regions to increase AFN's effectiveness and streamline issues which are statewide in nature, evaluate the establishment of an endowment for Native rights protection, advocacy and litigation, and create a sustainable organization that progresses, advocates and protects the rights of all Alaska Natives and future generations to come.

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

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-06

TITLE: SECURING ALASKA NATIVE CIVIL AND LAND RIGHTS AND
RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ALASKA NATIVE
BROTHERHOOD AND THE ALASKA NATIVE SISTERHOOD

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
profit corporations, tribal non-profit organizations and tribes; 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: Alaska Natives were not allowed to vote until 1922; and

WHEREAS: The Territory of Alaska supported and allowed discriminatory practices towards
Alaska Natives and unequal benefits for Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood, which were
formed in 1912 and are the oldest American Indian organizations in the United
States, organized efforts to address Native civil and land rights; and;

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood were successful
in achieving citizenship rights for Alaska Natives in 1922; 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 by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of
the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., with our deepest respect and gratitude,
hereby recognize the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native
Sisterhood for their dedication and contributions to Alaska Native Peoples for
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 RESOLVED THAT The Alaska Federation of Natives of Alaska shall hereby develop and present a plaque that recognizes the contributions of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood to all Alaska Native Peoples at the 2010 Alaska Federation of Natives convention, and

BE IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT The Alaska Federation of Natives send copies of this resolution to Alaska Congressional Delegation, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, State of Alaska, Alaska Senator Albert Kookesh, and Alaska Representative Bill Thomas and to all members of the caucus known as the Bush Caucus.

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

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



SUBSISTENCE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-07

TITLE: THE HARVEST OF MIGRATORY BIRDS BY ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have relied upon the harvest of spring waterfowl for generations; and

WHEREAS: This harvest by Alaska Natives was officially recognized by the United States and the other signatories to the International Migratory Bird Treaty, with the adoption of the 1999 Protocols by the United States; and

WHEREAS: The harvest is limited to those Alaska Natives who are permanent residences of a “included” areas of the state; and

WHEREAS: State and Federal Agencies have interpreted this provision to be prohibit the transportation of legally harvested waterfowl from “included areas” to “excluded areas”; and

WHEREAS: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act specifically authorizes the harvest of Spring, Summer and Fall Waterfowl by those Alaska Natives living in or from “excluded areas”, subject to specific provisions; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) has never adopted regulations or proposals to clarify the exact process by which these specific provisions will be implemented or adopted, thereby causing confusion and uncertainty during the harvest; and

WHEREAS: Due to the inaction of the AMBCC, Alaska Natives participating in the customary and traditional harvest of migratory birds are in jeopardy of being prosecuted by State and Federal officials for this historical practice; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council take the immediate steps, including but not limited to,

development and adoption of regulations regarding the harvesting of spring, summer and fall waterfowl, necessary to prevent such actions being taken by State and Federal enforcement agencies during the spring migratory bird harvest by Alaska Natives.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-08

TITLE: SUPPORTING REGULATORY CHANGES TO ALLOW TRIBAL MEMBERS AND/OR ALASKA NATIVE ANCSA DESCENDENTS TO TAKE, POSSESS AND UTILIZE SEA OTTERS FOR SUBSISTENCE AND HANDICRAFT

WHEREAS: The indigenous people of Alaska have harvested sea otters since time immemorial for many uses that include regalia, clothing, art, and trade; and

WHEREAS: The Marine Mammal Protection Act was made law in 1972 and states that only coastal Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos are able to take marine mammals for subsistence or handicraft purposes; and

WHEREAS: The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 uses the original definition of "Native" established in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971; and

WHEREAS: In the CFRs, "Native" means a citizen of the United States who is a person of one-fourth degree or more Alaska Indian (including Tsimshian Indians not enrolled in the Metlakatla Indian Community) Eskimo, or Aleut blood, or combination thereof, or originally enrolled under Section 5 of ANCSA; and

WHEREAS: These regulations have divided Alaskan Natives into two categories of "Natives" and "Descendants of"; and

WHEREAS: Hunting, proper hide preparation and skin sewing are traditional activities that are essential components of one's cultural identify, and these skills are taught and passed from one generation to the next; and

WHEREAS: Sea otter hunting, hide preparation and skin sewing are important in the Alutiiq culture; and

WHEREAS: The current regulations prohibit teaching and mentoring our youth on the skill and knowledge of sea otter hunting and handicraft if they are below ¼ blood quantum, negatively impacting the Alutiiq and the other Alaska Native cultures; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CFR (50 CFR 18) be revised, if required, to allow each Alaska Native Tribe to authorize and allow Alaska Native ANCSA Descendants to non-wastefully take, possess and utilize sea otters for subsistence or handicraft purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regulations be further amended to allow Alaska Native members of Alaska Native tribal governments to non-wastefully take, possess and utilize sea otters for subsistence and handicraft purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Interior and appropriate agencies take the necessary steps to implement this resolution immediately.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG REGION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2000 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-09

TITLE: REQUESTING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO DESIGNATE A FIFTY-MILE BUFFER FROM THE OUTER MOST LAND MASS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES IN COASTAL AND NEAR SHORE COMMUNITIES FROM BOTTOM FISH TRAWLING

WHEREAS: Practicing a customary and traditional subsistence way of life is a basic fundamental human right for Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Many of our villages derive their subsistence food sources from the sea in close proximity to our communities; and

WHEREAS: The entire destructive bottom trawler fishery has historically fished in close proximity to our coastal communities interfering the essential food sources for halibut, seals, walrus, whales and other important and essential subsistence food sources; and

WHEREAS: Eye witnesses, based on personal interviews, have seen ocean vegetation including sea lettuce, sea weed, and other forms of bottom sea life which are essential to the marine ecosystem disrupted in the wake of trawlers operating off the coastal communities; and

WHEREAS: Trawlers, in addition to the effects of global warming, may create irreparable harm to the food chain in the Bering Sea eco-system which will likely be detrimental to subsistence food sources; and

WHEREAS: Buffer zones are important for the protection of ecosystems important to our subsistence food resources; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Native, Inc., that AFN request the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Marine Fisheries Service designate a fifty mile subsistence buffer zone off the furthest land mass along the entire coast of Alaska while providing maximum protection for Community Development Quota Programs (CDQ) already in existence.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2000 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-10

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION, AND THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA TO FULLY FUND ESSENTIAL RESEARCH TO ADDRESS DISASTEROUS SALMON DECLINES THROUGHOUT ALASKA, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ARCTIC-YUKON-KUSKOKWIM (AYK) WITH FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS DIRECTED TO THE AYK SUSTAINABLE SALMON INITIATIVE
- WHEREAS:** The Yukon River has experienced disastrous declines of Chinook and fall chum salmon, 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, These circumstances led to widespread restrictions and closures of subsistence and small scale commercial fisheries and caused 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 these salmon stocks for their health, well-being and way of life; and
- WHEREAS:** Salmon is important to all Alaska Native people for the survival, subsistence, economy and essential way of life; and
- WHEREAS:** The Secretary of Commerce is considering a Fisheries Disaster Declaration for the 2009 salmon fishing season which would be the sixteenth disaster declaration issued by state and federal agencies since 1997; and
- WHEREAS:** The Association of Village Council Presidents are founding members of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Sustainable Salmon Initiative (SSI) which serves as the leading collaborative multi-stakeholder organization for addressing pressing salmon research needs in the AYK region; and
- WHEREAS:** With the leadership and collaboration of the Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference and Kawerak, Inc., the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative has emerged as one of the largest and most successful working models of cooperative management of fisheries research in North America. The AYK SSI provides a strong co-management role for the AYK tribal organization; and
- WHEREAS:** Although the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative has begun the difficult of understanding the causes of the declines of salmon in the region by collaboratively funding over 50 salmon research projects in the region, many critical salmon research needs remain unfunded at this time; and
- WHEREAS:** Federal funding for salmon research through appropriations to the State of Alaska under the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) does not ensure that any research funding will reach the distressed subsistence fisheries in the AYK region; 1) over \$24 million was appropriated to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (AD&G) in FFY 2007 and 2008 for salmon research and a mere 5% of this funding was directed to salmon research in the AYK region; 2) an additional \$9 million was appropriated to ADF &G though the PCSRF in FFY 2009, and to date ADF&G has not awarded any funding to the AYK region despite the commercial fishing closure

and drastic restrictions in subsistence harvest resulting from salmon crashes on the Yukon River and Norton Sound watersheds'.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation request the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature to support and appropriate urgently needed funding, of no less than \$5,000,000 per year for a minimum of 8 years (the full life cycle of salmon) to address salmon research and restoration needs throughout the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim regions of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such research funding be directed specifically to the AYK SSI as a tribal-federal-state co-management effort, and that such funding explicitly not be administered through the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation ask the Governor of the State of Alaska, a signatory of the AYK SSI Memorandum of Understanding, to guarantee the recommitment to working cooperatively with the regional Native organizations to support the goals of the initiative and openly and aggressively work to secure funding for the continuation of the AYK SSI to fund critical new research to address salmon declines.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2000 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-11

TITLE: FAILURE OF FEDERAL MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE SUBSISTENCE HARVEST NEEDS

WHEREAS: President Obama's administration has strongly asserted the commitment to positively and actively address the concerns of Native Americans and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Continuing the current status in Alaska of managing only the human harvest, and simply monitoring instead of managing animal populations highly important for providing adequate and sustainable subsistence harvest needs, utterly circumvents the intent and purpose for Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA); and

WHEREAS: Avoiding or blocking proactive and proven effective measures such as predator management to provide for sustainable subsistence needs violates the commonly understood intent and purpose of Title VIII of ANILCA by serving only the long-term interests of animal welfare ideologies by relegating subsistence in rural Alaska to a subservient and minimized consideration, rather than its promised priority status; and

WHEREAS: In direct contradiction with subsistence standards relevant to ANILCA, the inhibitions towards actively addressing this issue have placed the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal management entities into an unacceptable position of stagnation and non-compliance where: a) application of sound scientific management principles have been, and continue to be precluded or preempted; b) substantial information has been, and continues to be avoided, minimized, suppressed or dismissed; and, c) is highly detrimental to achieving or maintaining either current or long-term integrity of providing for adequate or sustainable subsistence harvest needs in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Congressional Records (S15131) specifically addresses this matter in its Natural Diversity statement of December 1, 1980 that states: "The term is not intended to, in any way, restrict the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Service to manipulate habitat for the benefit of fish or wildlife populations within a refuge for the benefit of the use of such populations by man as part of a balanced management program mandated by the ANILCA or other applicable law"; and

WHEREAS: The concerns of rural Alaska villages surrounding this issue have been stated for several years through Alaska Federation of Natives Resolution #'s 00-14, 01-047, 02-12, 03-08, 04-08, 04-09, 05-13, 06-12, 06-14, and 07-15 (incorporated herein by reference); and

WHEREAS: Since Title VIII was specifically established to address federal obligations left unfulfilled by the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) regarding subsistence harvest needs, this ongoing failure to actively manage populations to provide for those needs addressed, serves as another breach of treaty between the federal government and Native Americans; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN recommend that the Secretary of Interior should take immediate assertive and affirmative action towards addressing and reducing existing barricades for predator management considerations and implementation to provide for adequate and sustainable subsistence harvest needs, in rural Alaska by requiring each member agency of the U.S. Interior Department in Alaska to expedite creation and submissions of management plans within one year, that outline how they will manage their respective wildlife populations to provide for current and future integrity of adequate and sustainable harvest needs to the greatest extent possible within their conservation units that either incorporates utilization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Division of Wildlife Services, or presents viable alternatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the delegates to the Alaska Federation of Natives request the Secretary of Interior to adopt the following conclusion from the National Academy of Science report regarding predator management in Alaska by incorporating into long term federal management policy and structure that "Such decisions must be based on detailed local information that supplements more general biological and social impact data. Therefore, effective and efficient decision-making needs to be customized by using local and traditional knowledge and targeted to the needs and interests of local constituencies" by expedited executive order that, at least on the Bureau of Land Management and Fish & Wildlife Service administered lands, a National Environmental Impact Statement exercise, (under de-facto oversight, or veto of animal welfare constituencies or similar "political science" organizations) is neither necessary nor appropriate for predator management intended to provide for adequate and sustainable subsistence harvest needs in rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2000 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-12

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES' REQUEST
URGING RELIEF FROM THE 3-SHELL LIMIT

WHEREAS: Certain government agencies have arbitrarily imposed a limit of three shells (3-Shell Limit) during the fall subsistence hunt, treating it as a sports hunt in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native subsistence hunters carrying more than three shells have been cited for hunting violations, which discourages subsistence hunting; and

WHEREAS: The residents of rural Alaska do not understand the reason behind this seemingly arbitrary regulation and are often inadvertently caught unaware of such a violation of this regulation as it is impossible to go hunting with just three shells; and

WHEREAS: It is unclear if the other hunters elsewhere in Alaska and in the Lower 48 states are subject to the same limits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the Alaska Native Communities and will devote resources to researching and challenging the seemingly arbitrary imposition of a 3-SHELL LIMIT on the Alaska Native subsistence hunters of the migratory birds in the Spring, Summer and Fall hunting seasons.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-13

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO ENSURE CONSULTATION WITH ALASKA NATIVES AND TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER WALRUS HUNTING COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS IN THE EVALUATION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO LIST THE PACIFIC WALRUS AS ENDANGERED SPECIES

WHEREAS: The indigenous peoples of the coastal communities of Alaska have utilized marine mammals for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: Subsistence is central to our existence and vital to the health and welfare of Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The Pacific walrus continues to be an essential cultural, natural and subsistence resource to Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The Eskimo Walrus Commission (EWC) was formed in 1978 with representation of 19 walrus hunting communities throughout the Northern, Northwestern and Western Alaska coastal communities; and

WHEREAS: The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) granted Alaska Natives an exemption to allow the harvest of Pacific walrus for traditional subsistence purposes; and

WHEREAS: In 1994, amendments to the MMPA included Section 119, "Marine Mammal Cooperative Agreements in Alaska" which provides for the USFWS to enter into Cooperative Agreements with Alaska Native organizations to conserve marine mammals and to provide co-management of subsistence use by Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The USFWS is reviewing a petition to list the Pacific walrus as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN requests that the US Fish and Wildlife Service consult with and consider all comments and recommendations of the walrus hunting communities and the Eskimo Walrus Commission in their evaluation of whether or not to list Pacific walrus as an endangered species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests that US Fish and Wildlife Service rigorously investigate and evaluate the potential impacts to subsistence users of a listing of Pacific Walrus on the endangered species list.

SUBMITTED BY: ESKIMO WALRUS COMMISSION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-14

TITLE: TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ALASKA NATIVE CO-MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND FOR PROACTIVE PROTECTION OF OUR SUBSISTENCE WAY OF LIFE

WHEREAS: Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering have provided food and its by-products to Alaska Natives for thousands of years and continue to be practiced by Alaska Natives across Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Subsistence constitutes not only the nutritional, but also the spiritual and cultural foundation of Alaska's indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS: The measures taken by Congress in Title VIII of ANILCA are slowly being weakened; and

WHEREAS: The State Boards of Fisheries and Game are imposing more and more restrictions on subsistence users who hunt and fish on state, Native and private lands and waters, threatening the survival of many communities; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native organizations that are working to ensure the retention of the rights of Alaska Natives under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) are finding it increasingly difficult to fulfill their co-management responsibilities due to dwindling federal funding; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission (ANHSC) represents the conservation and co-management interests of harbor seal hunters and subsistence users in over 60 coastal communities throughout the range of harbor seals in Alaska (from Southeast Alaska to Bristol Bay including the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands); and

WHEREAS: ANHSC entered into a co-management agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in 1999 pursuant to Section 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act in order to conserve and provide stewardship of harbor seal populations critical to the subsistence way of life of Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: In 2008, although ANHSC's research projects (collection of harvest data and bio-sampling) were ranked by the federal and state agencies as the top two research projects (out of over 50 reviewed) based on management needs for harbor seals, ANHSC's federal funding has decreased significantly making it impossible to continue with these important projects or to be an effective co-management partner without additional funding from other sources; and

WHEREAS: The lack of funding for co-management efforts of Alaska Natives is not unique to the ANHSC, but is true for all the Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions and for the Native community in general in our on-going efforts to protect our traditional hunting and fishing rights; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of the growing threats to our way of life, delegates to the 2006 and 2007 AFN Convention called on AFN to develop a proactive strategy for protecting subsistence for succeeding generations; and

WHEREAS: While it remains important to obtain federal funding for research and basic operations of Alaska Native co-management bodies, the Native community generally cannot be proactive in advancing our ability to respond effectively to threats to subsistence; help build the scientific and management capacity of the Native community; advance the rights and opportunities for Native management; and monitor state and federal regulatory actions, court cases and other issues that affect our subsistence resources, unless we have funding from the Native community that can be leveraged with other funding; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urge Congress and the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior to support the adequate implementation of the co-management provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the agreements entered into by the agencies by funding marine mammal co-management bodies in amounts necessary for their basic operations and for on-going bio-sampling and the collection and analysis of data from the subsistence harvest of marine mammals.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA NATIVE HARBOR SEAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-15

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED RESOURCES TO PREVENT, DIAGNOSE, AND TREAT DIABETES IN THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY
- WHEREAS:** Diabetes is a serious, costly and increasingly common chronic disease that affects almost 24 million Americans, or 8% of Americans, with millions more are at risk for the disease. Diabetes contributes to almost 234,000 deaths a year and is the fifth leading cause of death by disease in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Diabetes causes preventable complications that can be life threatening. Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, leg and foot amputations, pregnancy complications, and death related to flu and pneumonia. The leading causes of death in people with diabetes are heart disease and stroke; and
- WHEREAS:** Minority populations, especially Alaska Natives, suffer from diabetes at rates much higher than the general population and have the higher rates of complications associated with the disease; and
- WHEREAS:** The latest available data suggests that diabetes within the Alaska Native community surged over 114% from 1990 to 2006, including increases of 140% amongst Aleuts and 165% amongst Eskimos; and
- WHEREAS:** Geographic regions of the Alaska Native community also saw staggering increases in the rate of diabetes during that same time frame, including increases of 208% in the Bristol Bay region and 233% in Norton Sound; and
- WHEREAS:** As many as 40 out of every 1000 Alaska Natives will live with diabetes and diabetes complications like blindness, kidney failure, amputations and heart disease during their lifetime; and
- WHEREAS:** Federal funding provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for state run diabetes control programs decreased 4.3% in FY 2009 with a greater than 10% reduction in program funding for the Alaska program suggests the government focus is not upon the needs of people impacted by diabetes in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Funding sources for Alaska based diabetes programs serving the Native American community must be reauthorized at the federal and state levels over the coming years and it is imperative that resources are available to meet the growing needs of Native Americans with diabetes; and

WHEREAS: The delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives wish to express their appreciation to President Barack Obama, Congressman Don Young, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Senator Mark Begich for their efforts this past year in seeking to honor the contracts and compacts that the federal government has awarded to all Native American Tribes and tribal organizations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that, AFN supports innovative approaches that allow Alaskan native communities, tribes and the state to implement efforts to prevent, diagnose and treat diabetes while reducing the burdens associated with the disease for Native Alaskans living with or at-risk for diabetes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls on the United States Congress, the Indian Health Service, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to increase dollars and resources available for state based diabetes control programs, tribe specific and community efforts to help prevent, diagnose and control the reach of the diabetes epidemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AFN further urges the President, the United States Congress, and state elected officials to provide adequate federal and state funding and resources for existing and innovative programs to help implement additional programs aimed towards preventing, detecting and treating diabetes and its related health complications in tribal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls on elected officials and other government officials to support and implement programs aimed at reaching Native Alaskan youth and young adults at risk or living with diabetes on how best to prevent, detect, treat and manage diabetes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AFN also calls upon state legislatures to supplement federal resources for relevant efforts to expand the reach and scope of said efforts to reach Native Alaskans and those providing healthcare services to the community with targeted programs on how best to prevent or control diabetes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon federal government interests to develop a national diabetes coordinator position and state government interests to develop a state diabetes coordinator to help relevant government agencies develop plans to ensure the needs of the ever increasing numbers of Alaskans and Native Alaskans with and affected by diabetes are met. The positions would also serve to bridge communication gaps that exist between the Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention at the Indian Health Service, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes on Health, the Alaska Department of Health and other related agencies at all levels much like the Office of National AIDS Policy in the federal government. Lastly, AFN believes those holding these positions should actively advocate for the needs of Alaskan Natives with diabetes; and

others impacted by the disease while working to ensure resources are available to meet the pressing need posed by the diabetes epidemic; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives respectfully call upon President Obama and Congress to fully fund the federal government's contract support cost obligations under its contracts with the Alaska Native Tribes and tribal organizations as part of the FY 2011 Budget, and thereafter fully fund such contracts and compacts on the same basis as the United States fully fund any other government contracts.

SUBMITTED BY: AARON LEGGETT OF THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF EKLUTNA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2000 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-16

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY'S URGING REFORM IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE STATE OF ALASKA VILLAGE SAFE WATER ("VSW") PROGRAM

WHEREAS: There are 231 federally recognized in Alaska that are organized under the Federal Indian Reorganization Act; and

WHEREAS: With Federal, State and local tribal funding, the tribes provide housing, police, fire protection, health care and other vital government services to the residents of these tribal communities; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska VSW program is a program established and funded by the State of Alaska to eradicate water borne diseases, which are among the most common and easily eradicated diseases in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Governor Sean Parnell had made improvements of the living conditions in rural Alaska a center piece of his administration and to that end both the Governor and the Alaska Legislature should give serious attention to the reform and revitalization of the VSW projects throughout rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Sewer and water construction projects operated on a self-determination model through local utility districts with the active participation of local communities and are likely to be much more responsive to local communities and are likely to be much more responsive to local needs and generally complete projects in a more timely and efficient manner that does the VSW program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urges:

1. Governor Parnell to perform a comprehensive review of the organization, operation and performance of the Alaska VSW program to address its many short-comings;
2. The Alaska Legislature to direct the appropriate legislative committees to review the organization, operation and performance of the VSW program during the upcoming 2010 legislation session as a top legislative priority.
3. The Governor's and Legislature's review of the VSW program to consider ways in which the program can be reformed to become more efficient and to operate along the lines of the self-determination model

4. The review to include consideration for the formation of local utility districts operated by tribal and municipal governments that would be more directly responsible and accountable for the completion of the VSW projects.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-17

TITLE: REQUESTING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO FUND COMMUNITY HALLS AND PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDINGS IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES

WHEREAS: Many Alaska Native communities in the State of Alaska have identified a need for replacement of their existing Community Hall and Public Safety Buildings; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska, Department of Community and Regional Affairs, has funding available for Community Development Block Grants, but currently the state does not allow these funds to be used to fund Community Halls and Public Safety Buildings; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the State of Alaska allow Community Development Block Grants to also be used for replacement of existing Community Hall and Public Safety Buildings throughout all Alaska Native villages.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-18

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER (VPSO) FAMILY HOUSING PROJECTS TO BE AVAILABLE TO VILLAGES IN NEED OF VPSO HOUSING AND PLACEMENT

WHEREAS: Many regional villages are without fully-trained VPSO's mainly due to the lack of adequate affordable family housing; and

WHEREAS: Many of our villages lack adequate public safety buildings to utilize as temporary holding facilities and much less, an office for the VPSOs; and

WHEREAS: Public safety has been identified as an on-going unmet need in the AFN Region, and proactive action must be taken to better serve our people; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that VPSO Housing and offices be made available to all Alaska Native villages with no housing for VPSO placements for the continued health, safety, and welfare of our People.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-19

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE AKIACHAK NATIVE COMMUNITY'S DESIRE TO EXPAND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACTING AND COMPACTING

WHEREAS: The Akiachak Native Community ("ANC") has long provided minimal health services under a compact with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS: ANC is prohibited by a federal legislative rider from expanding its community health services including a much needed Dental Clinic and having an onsite Physician's Assistant or similar professional to provide more comprehensive and immediate care to the growing ANC population; and

WHEREAS: The legislative rider is inconsistent with the goals of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and, at least in the case of ANC, limits provision of the best available health care services to the Native residents of the Akiachak Native Community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the Alaska Native Communities' removal or modification of the federal legislative rider to permit expansion of their health services to include a Dental Clinic and Physician's Assistant or other similar health professional.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

BOARD ACTION: TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: REFER TO BOARD



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-20

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES NEEDING RELOCATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE AND CREATING A LEAD FEDERAL COORDINATION AGENCY

WHEREAS: *The 2009 Government Accounting Office's Report (GAO-09-551)* entitled "ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES, Limited Progress Has Been Made on Relocating Villages Threatened by Flooding and Erosion. "It identified, of the more than 200 Alaska Native Villages, 31 have imminent threats due to flooding and erosion; it also reported 12 of 31 villages have decided to relocate in part or entirely or to explore relocation options due to flooding and erosion; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 117 Program Authority of fiscal year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act was authorized to address storm damage, erosion and issues in Alaska communities at full federal expense was repealed by Congress in March 2009; and

WHEREAS: There is currently no one federal agency tasked with the authority to provide public infrastructure development to assist villages with flooding and erosion issues such as relocation of whole communities within their own geographical areas and to coordinate funding with the designated State coordinating agency; and

WHEREAS: The no action option for Alaska is the annihilation of our communities by dissemination. We Alaskans are unique, and need to be valued as a national treasure by the people of the United States. We deserve the attention and help of the American people and the federal government; and

WHEREAS: Four of the five communities identified by the state immediate action workgroup as needing serious consideration for an entire community relocation were planted at these vulnerable sites by the construction of the BIA schools in the mid 1930's. These four communities were situated safely inland, but to cut down on mobilization costs the BIA built the schools along the coast; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives Board provide advocacy to all of the "Flooding, Erosion and Relocation needs of the most affected communities needing assistance and to provide the same advocacy for governmental assistance to those communities in the future that may need assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AFN provide advocacy for Congress to create a lead federal entity to work cooperatively with the lead State agency to coordinate and oversee village relocation efforts and assistance relating to flooding and erosion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives works with our Washington Delegation and Federal Government to mandate that the BIA assist the state and federal agencies currently working with these communities in seeking funding for immediate and long-term solutions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT we call upon the Alaska Congressional delegation to introduce and seek passage of language, similar to the section 117 language, which previously provided for full funding of Corps of Engineers' projects to aid in the protection and relocation of our threatened communities.

SUBMITTED BY: THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHISHMAREF AND THE SHISHMAREF NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-21

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY IN RURAL ALASKA

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska pays the highest energy rates in America; and

WHEREAS: there is no single solution that can solve the energy crisis and the answer lies, in part, in combining local and national efforts in order to diversify our energy options; and

WHEREAS: Alaska has the ability to be a leader in the renewable energy realm and has capacity to deploy existing technologies and embrace forward-thinking policies that can offset rural Alaska's on-going energy crisis; and

WHEREAS: In addition to direct assistance and tax incentives, rural Alaska would greatly benefit from the establishment of a policy called a renewable electricity standard; and

WHEREAS: supporting a strong renewable electricity standard can effectively demonstrate to the United States Congress the high level of interest that rural communities have in producing renewable energy; and

WHEREAS: it is our desire and commitment to create new revenue streams and job opportunities for our current and future generations; and

WHEREAS: renewable electricity credits represent a potential revenue stream for Alaska Native groups that are investing in renewable energy projects; and

WHEREAS: under previously introduced legislation, renewable energy developed on Native lands would get twice as many credits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that: the United States Congress immediately enact a national renewable electricity standard of at least 25% by 2025 which includes all appropriate renewable energy sources such as wind, in-stream and other appropriate hydro technologies, geothermal, ocean, and solar, and provide double renewable electricity credits on Native lands.

SUBMITTED BY: Haida Coporation, Koniag

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-22

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONCERNING STATEMENT OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS: The U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Energy and Housing and Urban Development came to the AVCP Region on August 12, 2009 and met with tribal representatives and regional leaders from throughout Alaska on issues and concerns of rural Alaska Native villages; and

WHEREAS: These issues and concerns were documented in separate statements of issues and recommendations for administrative and legislative action, and which also included proposed actions directed to the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Interior; and

WHEREAS: Issues and recommendations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture included the expedited release of \$55 million in unobligated USDA water and sewer funding, expanding Rural Development programs, expanding Rural Utilities Services and Rural Business Development Programs, \$300 million funding of rural Alaska Solid Waste Projects, restore funding to the Denali Commission, and Broadband Infrastructure Development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the aforementioned proposed administrative and legislative actions for the U.S. Department of Agriculture be implemented to address the cultural, social, community and economic development needs of rural Alaska Native villages.

SUBMITTED BY: THE ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS,

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-23

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

WHEREAS: The U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Energy and Housing and Urban Development came to the AVCP Region on August 12, 2009 and met with tribal representatives and regional leaders from throughout Alaska on issues and concerns of rural Alaska Native villages; and

WHEREAS: These issues and concerns were documented in separate statements of issues and recommendations for administrative and legislative action, and which also included proposed actions directed to the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S Department of Interior; and

WHEREAS: Issues and recommendations for the U.S. Department of Energy includes enhancing access to renewable energy funding, establishing an Alaska office of the U.S. Department of Energy, expand weatherization and energy efficiency programs to include community facilities and commercial buildings, expand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, support rural Alaska cooperatives, restore full funding to the Denali Commission, energy efficient building construction funding and increased LIHEAP support for leveling of homes due to climate change.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that the aforementioned proposed administrative and legislative actions for the U.S. Department of Energy be implemented to address the cultural, social, community and economic development needs of rural Alaska Native villages.

SUBMITTED BY: THE ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS,

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-24

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS: The U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Energy and Housing and Urban Development came to the AVCP Region on August 12, 2009 and met with tribal representatives and regional leaders from throughout Alaska on issues and concerns of rural Alaska Native villages; and

WHEREAS: These issues and concerns were documented in separate statements of issues and recommendations for administrative and legislative action, and which also included proposed actions directed to the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S Department of Interior; and

WHEREAS: Issues and recommendations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development include the immediate release of over \$75 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for Water & Sewer projects, allowing Alaska housing authorities the option for Force Account method of construction, tribal flexibility in administering federal programs, \$112 million in Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) for Alaska Housing Authorities, strike the provisions in P.L. 111-8 prohibiting Indian Health Service (IHS) construction funds from being spent on new homes funded by Housing Urban Development (HUD), a new funding source for Alaska Housing Authorities for sanitation facilities, funding for village infrastructure and public facilities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that the aforementioned proposed administrative and legislative actions for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development be implemented to address the cultural, social, community and economic development needs of rural Alaska Native villages.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE
COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-25

TITLE: ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

WHEREAS: We the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. recognize our moral, social, spiritual and financial responsibility to protect and provide for the needs of the children of our nation; and

WHEREAS: We believe that all children are created with the inherent right to be safe, to be loved and nurtured, and to have adequate health care, nutrition and shelter, and to be heard and believed; and

WHEREAS: We believe that each child has the right to be free of physical or emotional abuse, to be protected from sexual abuse and exploitation, and to be free from neglect, discrimination and the demeaning or destructive acts of others; and

WHEREAS: All our children have the right to a name and tribal identity, and the right not to be separated from his/her birth parents and to know their extended family and community, which are an important part of the child's tribal identity as well as essential to assure our survival as a people; and

WHEREAS: All our children have the right to learn about and benefit from our tribal history, culture, language, spiritual traditions and philosophy and to have positive adult role models in their lives; and

WHEREAS: We believe that parents have primary responsibility for providing their children with proper prenatal care, ongoing age-appropriate physical and emotional care, including emotional nurturing, adequate food, shelter, education, health care; and,

WHEREAS: We believe that parents have an absolute responsibility to provide their children with a safe and healthy home and child care environments, to teach their children safety skills, and to provide appropriate supervision; and

WHEREAS: We believe that we too have a responsibility to assure that our tribal children have a standard of health, safety, education, and nurturing necessary to assist them in gaining healthy values and behaviors which will help them mature into healthy and productive members of our tribal community; and

WHEREAS: We believe that the treatment of children, and therefore the welfare of our tribes is the responsibility of the entire community, and that this responsibility extends to all the Native children who reside in our community, regardless of their tribal origins or their length of residence; and

WHEREAS: We recognize that domestic violence, substance abuse, lack of supervision, inadequate medical care and physical or emotional neglect may result in far-reaching and traumatizing effects on a child's physical and emotional growth and development; and

WHEREAS: Maltreated, neglected, parentless and traumatized children often need special care, treatment and support in a way that promotes their healing and safety, as well as their sense of dignity, value and future well being; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. issue and proclaim this Children's Bill of Rights in order to assure that all of the children in our community who are under the age of eighteen years are provided with adequate food, clothing, shelter and health care; that they are protected and supervised to assure their safety and health; that they receive nurturing, appropriate cultural teaching and adequate education/schooling – all of which are their inherent and basic rights as Native children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc shall advocate for and promote the safety, dignity and well-being of the community's children throughout all governmental, business, social services and educational agencies and all other institutions involved in the community for any length of time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc shall undertake such other efforts as may be deemed necessary to assure the long-term safety and protection of our children, including, but not limited to monitoring the well-being of the children, encouraging parents to participate in services to remedy behaviors that place children at risk, and placement of children with relatives or other community members when such is necessary for the health and welfare of the child/ren; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. issue and proclaim; in commitment to our youth and our communities, and the desire to keep children safe through mandated reporting; encourage all tribes to declare all their employees to be mandated reporters of child abuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., encourage tribes to receive Child abuse prevention training and information on an annual basis, provided by trained child protection programs or agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc urge,; in support of the youth in our community, the employers to provide paid release time to employees while they volunteer with youth at school and in the community with the goal of meeting the principles of the Power of Five Initiative leading to increased adult involvement with youth and help involve businesses and organizations in reaching out to youth and schools.

SUBMITTED BY: DEANNA HARDIN, CURYUNG TRIBAL MEMBER

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



CULTURAL

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-26

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF TAX EXEMPTION FOR INCOME EARNED BY ELDERS AND FLUENT SPEAKERS WHEN WORKING ON LANGUAGE PRESERVATION PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

WHEREAS: Indigenous languages are disappearing at rapid rates and in the United States alone, it is estimated that only 175 Native languages remain; and

WHEREAS: By the year 2050, it is estimated that only 20 indigenous languages will be regularly spoken in Native American homes and communities; and

WHEREAS: Indigenous languages are critical to the preservation of Alaska Native peoples' distinct worldviews and way of life; and

WHEREAS: The United States Congress recognized the importance of indigenous languages through passage of the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006; and

WHEREAS: As a result of the aforementioned act, funding has been made available to tribes for language nests, immersion schools, and restoration projects; and

WHEREAS: In many communities, the only speakers left to fulfill the work encouraged by the aforementioned act are our esteemed elders, who often live with limited financial means; and

WHEREAS: Many of our elders depend on social security, public assistance, and public housing benefits; and

WHEREAS: Strict wage, labor, and tax laws often prohibit our elders from participating in language preservation work; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the United States Department of Health & Human Services, United States Department of Internal Revenue Service, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and related-departments in the State of Alaska work in cooperation with Tribes to identify ways to allow our esteemed elders to fulfill the work of the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006 without fear of financial penalization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN recommends that elders and fluent speakers who contribute to language preservation projects described in the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006 are exempted from paying taxes on income earned in association with said language contributions.

SUBMITTED BY: KETCHIKAN INDIAN COMMUNITY

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-27

TITLE: THE CLIMATE CHANGES IN THE OCEANIC SYSTEMS REQUIRE PROTECTIONS FOR OUR VILLAGES

WHEREAS: The climate changes affecting the Arctic Ocean is having a dramatic impact on the overall health of the Bering Sea and other oceanic systems adjacent to Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The impacts on our Tribal villages brought about by climate change are compounded by large factory trawler fishing boats, especially affecting our subsistence salmon needs through their by-catch problems North of the Alaska Peninsula; and

WHEREAS: The foods upon which we depend for survival are either declining in numbers or moving further away from our homes, thus making it more expensive and difficult to provide food for our families; and,

WHEREAS: We must work to establish protections and stop habitat destruction by bottom trawlers to ensure our foods have enough food to survive to provide for our needs;

WHEREAS: The AFN 2009 Convention has already passed Resolution 09-09 protecting 50 mile zones; and this resolution offers a possible mechanism to fulfill that resolution; and.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports the need to establish cultural heritage zones in and around our villages and the canyons of the Bering Sea, the Arctic and other Oceanic systems to help protect the habitat used for food, nurturing and caring for their young for the animals we depend upon for our survival; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our Tribal Governments, village and regional ANCSA Corporations and the regional non-profit organizations to work towards establishing these cultural heritage zones by working together through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alaska Board of Fish and our Congressional Delegation to ensure that these habitats of particular concern are protected for our survival.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG, INC

BOARD ACTION: TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



EDUCATION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-28

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE STATEMENT OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS: The U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Energy and Housing and Urban Development came to the AVCP Region on August 12, 2009, and met with tribal representatives and regional leaders on issues and concerns related to the cultural, social, economic and community development needs of AVCP member villages; and

WHEREAS: These regional issues and concerns were documented in separate statements of issues and recommendations for administrative and legislative action, and which also included proposed actions directed to the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Interior in the exercise of their authorities and responsibilities in the AVCP Region; and

WHEREAS: Issues and recommendations for the U.S. Department of Education included changes in the No Child Left Behind Act related to AYP determinations, HQ designations and e-rate programs, flexibility in education grants to rural Alaska, school funding, employment and training programs and urging the passage of the proposed Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act of 2009.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives supports and approves that the proposed administrative and legislative actions for the U.S. Department of Education be implemented to address the cultural, social, economic, and community development needs of all the Alaska Native School children.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE
COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-29

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR IĻISAĖVIK COLLEGE FOR ALL ALASKAN NATIVES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Commission on Post Secondary Education has authorized IĻisaĖvik College to operate in the State of Alaska in accordance with the terms and conditions of Alaska Statutes 14.48 and with the rules and regulations pertinent thereto; and
- WHEREAS:** IĻisaĖvik College is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU); and
- WHEREAS:** IĻisaĖvik College is the only federally recognized accredited tribal college in Alaska which provides quality post-secondary academic, vocational and technical education in a learning environment that perpetuates and strengthens culture, language, values, and traditions dedicated to providing well-educated and trained individuals who meet the human resource needs of Industrial Employers; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has over 44,000 miles of coastline with nearly 75% of Alaska's residents residing in coastal communities with commercial fishing, logging, tourism, and oil and gas projects industrial operators that produce over 80% of the state's economic product; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives depend on renewable subsistence wildlife resources to sustain their unique cultural, customary and traditional identities through sustainable harvest levels of wildlife resources vitally important to each respective culture; and
- WHEREAS:** Lobbying efforts are being made to enact congressional legislation requiring post secondary education credentials prior to hiring Marine Mammal Observers on industry vessels in the future which would disqualify many Alaskan Natives who have been employed by industry operators; and
- WHEREAS:** The accrued Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Alaskan Natives is invaluable in providing expert traditional knowledge to monitor and protect industry operators from adversely impacting Alaska's marine mammal wildlife resources when actively conducting research, exploration, development and production in the open seas; and

WHEREAS: Iḷisagvik College has developed a viable Stewardship Training for Marine Mammal Observers Program, that incorporates both Traditional Ecological Knowledge along with academic courses, that has trained many Alaska Natives who were employed as Marine Mammal Observers onboard industry vessels including subsistence hunters, whaling captains and whaling captains wives with decades of traditional knowledge in Arctic waters; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Delegates to the 2009 Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention affirm and strongly support the vital importance of utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the protection of our renewable subsistence resource; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Delegates to the 2009 Alaska Federation of Natives hereby endorse Iḷisagvik College, Alaska's only accredited tribal college as the recognized training center for Alaskan Natives as Marine Mammal Observers; and

BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED THAT the 2009 Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention Delegates direct the AFN President and AFN Board of Directors to oppose any efforts to enact congressional legislation to require post secondary education credentials over the accrued and expert traditional ecological knowledge of Alaskan Natives in each respective region and community.

SUBMITTED BY: IḷISAGVIK COLLEGE, UKPEAGVIK IḶUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-30

TITLE: DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH THE MEDICAL AND PHARMACY SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

WHEREAS: Alaska Native people are severely underrepresented among health care professionals in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Academic institutions can play a vital role in addressing the disparities in education and career development; and

WHEREAS: The John A. Burns School of Medicine at University of Hawai'i at Manoa and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy are committed to a diverse enrollment and faculty; and

WHEREAS: The indigenous people of Alaska and Hawai'i share similar histories and traditions which can help bridge the cultural gap for Alaska Native students away from their home communities: and

WHEREAS: The indigenous people of Alaska and Hawai'i can work together to demonstrate careers in medicine or pharmacy are realistic and achievable goals for Alaska Native and Native Hawai'i an peoples, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that new opportunities must be sought out to increase the representation of Alaska Native people in health care professionals; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN encourages stronger relationships with the university system in Hawai'i as part of the strategy to promote career advancements.

SUBMITTED BY: SOUTH CENTRAL FOUNDATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-31

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CALL TO ACTION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTCOMES FOR ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS

WHEREAS: Successful youth education, through the intergenerational sharing of knowledge and life skills, has always been one of the central values of Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: The history of Alaska schools has been fraught with inequity and assimilative policies that have denied our youth of their right to a quality, culturally appropriate education; and

WHEREAS: Despite changes in policy, the academic achievement of Alaska Native students continues to lag significantly behind the general population, as measured by test scores, graduation and dropout rates; and

WHEREAS: Poor academic achievement and lack of familial support have been proven to lead to higher rates of unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, and incarceration; and

WHEREAS: The self-determined future of Alaska Native people depends on the educational success of our youth; and

WHEREAS: Positive parental and family involvement in a child's education increases their likelihood of academic achievement, self-confidence, and successful, healthy lives; and

WHEREAS: It is the duty and responsibility of the public schools in Alaska to work in partnership with families and communities to foster the educational achievement and success of our youth; and

WHEREAS: Schools such as Mt. Edgecumbe and others clearly demonstrate that Alaska Native students will excel when provided with a supportive and culturally appropriate learning environment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., we will devote ourselves as parents, relatives, teachers, and community members, to the urgent necessity of raising a new generation of Alaska Native people who are strong, know who they are, where they come from, and where they are going, equipped with the education and skills needed for successful and productive lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each of us pledges to hold ourselves, our schools, and our elected officials highly accountable for ensuring the academic and personal success of all Alaska Native children, knowing that upon their success rests the future of all Alaska Native people, and the welfare of all residents of the State of Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ECONOMIC

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-32

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE STATEMENT OF ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WHEREAS: The U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Energy and Housing and Urban Development came to the AVCP Region on August 12, 2009, and met with tribal representatives and regional leaders on issues and concerns related to the cultural, social, economic and community development needs of AVCP member villages; and

WHEREAS: These regional issues and concerns were documented in separate statements of issues and recommendations for administrative and legislative action, and which also included proposed actions directed to the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Interior in the exercise of their authorities and responsibilities in the AVCP Region; and

WHEREAS: Issues and recommendations for the U.S. Department of Commerce included expanding Small Business Enterprise and Opportunity programs, protect Chinook salmon, implement a hard cap of 32,500 Chinook in the Pollock fishery effective immediately, providing AVCP with approximately \$6.5 million to create a Regional Subsistence Resource Research Program, funding for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative, and urging Congress to enact the proposed Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act of 2009.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives supports and approves that the proposed administrative and legislative actions for the U.S. Department of Commerce be implemented to address the cultural, social, economic, and community development needs of Alaska Native villages across the State of Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE
COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-33

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHALLENGE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT OF 2009

WHEREAS: The Association of Village Council Presidents, working jointly with the Bristol Bay Native Association and the Alaska Federal of Natives, has developed a Congressional legislative proposal to create a domestic version of the Millennium Challenge Account used for foreign aid; and

WHEREAS: Two years ago jointly proposed legislation introduced as S. 2232, the Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act, would create five pilot projects in remote Native American areas under the Department of Commerce to direct millions in federal funding for the purposes of fostering sustainable economic growth and reducing poverty; and

WHEREAS: The proposed legislation recognizes that despite large federal funding streams for particular purposes such as health and housing, the remote Native communities of rural Alaska and other similar indigenous populations have never closed the gap with mainstream American society in terms of most indicators of social and economic health, and further that federal funding has yet to achieve sustainable economic growth; and

WHEREAS: The new program would have many of the features of the Millennium Challenge Corporation's system of providing foreign aid, which is based on a half-century of foreign aid experience, creating this annually appropriated mandate would fund local economic programs under a compact (rather than a grant) process; and

WHEREAS: the demonstration project should be funded at a total of \$100 million to support one compact in each Alaska and Hawaii, and three compacts with Lower 48 reservation tribes; and

WHEREAS: The legislation designates a joint application by BBNA, AVCP and AFN as the Alaska compacting entity; and

WHEREAS: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski introduced S. 980, "Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act of 2009" on her behalf and on behalf of the original co-sponsors of this bill U. S. Senators: Mark Begich of Alaska; Daniel K. Akaka and Daniel K. Inouye, both from the Hawaii. This bill was referred to the U. S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the same committee that it was referred to during the 110th Congress; and

WHEREAS: On May 19, 2009 U. S. House side, Congressman Don Young introduced the House version of this bill; HR 2507, on his behalf and on behalf of the original co-sponsor Congressman Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii is an original co-sponsor of the bill; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that they urge Congress to enact, and fund, the 2009 Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act of 2009 during the 111th Congress.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE
COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2000 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-34

TITLE: REQUESTING THE U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, GARY LOCKE TO REJECT THE DECISION OF THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ADDRESSING THE CHINOOK BYCATCH IN THE BERING SEA POLLOCK TRAWL FISHERY IN APRIL 2009

WHEREAS: Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, during the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) meeting held in Anchorage on April 1 through April 7, 2009, submitted a motion for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to consider the following:

- An overall cap of 68,392 Chinook salmon
- Performance cap of 47,591 Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS: Eventually, the NPFMC adopted a hard cap of 60,000 Chinook salmon and a performance cap of 47,591 Chinook salmon which will take effect in the year 2011; and

WHEREAS: The composition of the Bering Sea Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock trawl fishery, according to Kate Myers, is 56% of Western Alaska origin, 31% of Cook Inlet origin, 8% Southeast Alaska/British Columbia origin, and the remaining 5% of Kamchatka origin; and

WHEREAS: Up to 95% of the Chinook bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Trawl fishery is of Alaska origin; and

WHEREAS: Many of the Chinook salmon producing rivers and streams in Alaska are facing conservation concerns to include the Stikine and Taku Rivers in Southeast Alaska, the Kenai and the Deshka in the Cook Inlet region, the Karluk and Ayakulik River of the Kodiak region, the Nushugak River in the Bristol Bay region, the Kwethluk, Tuluksak, and the George in the Kuskokwim River region, the Unalakeet River in the Norton Sound region and the Yukon River, Copper River and in the Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Bering Sea Pollock Trawl fishery impacts all Chinook salmon producing rivers in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Tribes of the Lower Yukon region are deeply concerned that the NPFMC actions does not address the critically low forecast of the Chinook salmon returns on the Yukon River in the summer of 2009; and

WHEREAS: The 2008 Chinook salmon returns on the Yukon River were far below the numbers necessary for conservation, to meet international treaty obligations, to provide for the aboriginal needs of the Indigenous people in Yukon Territory, Canada, and far below the number of Chinook salmon necessary to meet the subsistence needs of the Yukon River Tribal families and to provide for commercial opportunities essential to meet the financial needs of the Yukon River Tribal families; and

WHEREAS: Specifically, on the Yukon River, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, opened the 2008 subsistence salmon harvest season with windows regulations in place for the entire Yukon River; and implemented reduced and outright subsistence closures; and

WHEREAS: The return of the Yukon River Chinook salmon began fearfully slow and required even further restrictions placed on the Yukon in-river subsistence fishermen and their families (i.e., from the 2 36-hour openers in the Lower River districts down to 2 18-hour openers) for fear that the “run abundance would not support the customary subsistence harvests and meet escapement goals in Alaska and meet the interim management escapement goal of at least 45,000 fish into Canada agreed to by the Yukon River Panel,” (taken from the ADFG/USFWS 2008 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #14, dated June 22, 2008), and, in the lower river districts, the mesh size was reduced to a maximum of 6-inch stretch mesh in order to conserve Chinook salmon; and

WHEREAS: By the end of the 2008 season, it was determined that the total Yukon River run was approximately 151,000 Chinook salmon (36% below the most recent 5-year average) and was not enough to satisfy all of the historical needs, including Subsistence; and

WHEREAS: Since 2001 to date, the minimum number of Chinook salmon intercepted and wasted by the Bering Sea Pollock fishery is over 450,000, most notably the 2007 record high by-catch amount of 122,000; and

WHEREAS: In the meantime, the Bering Sea Pollock fishery continues to fish without any regulatory restrictions, further endangering our future Chinook salmon resources and our ability to meet our subsistence and small scale in-river commercial fishery needs; and

- WHEREAS: Subsistence and commercial Chinook users cannot wait until 2011 for effective management measures to be implemented, for fear of another season such as 2007, where 120,000+ Chinook salmon were wasted in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery, and for additional years of no commercial fishing and not meeting subsistence needs.
- WHEREAS: During the month of January 2009, Mr. Nick Tucker of Emmonak, wrote a letter to the Anchorage Daily News outlining the sufferings, hardships, and dilemma's people were facing in the village of Emmonak as a result of a failed Chinook directed commercial fishery, high energy costs, high transportation and food costs; and
- WHEREAS: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) representative expressed, to the NPFMC, that the current regulatory action was not sufficient for the USFWS to meet its obligations to the rural residents for their subsistence needs under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and
- WHEREAS: The United States State Department representative expressed her concern that the NPFMC current action does not meet the needs of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement where the treaty agreement requires the United States to allow a minimum escapement of 45,000 Chinook salmon through the international boundary on the Yukon River; and
- WHEREAS: In the summer of 2009, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the USFWS, Office of Subsistence Management placed severe subsistence and commercial restrictions on the tribal members on the United States side of the Yukon River to include the following:
- No directed commercial fishery for Yukon River Chinook salmon
 - No subsistence fishing on the first pulse and perhaps the first-half of the second pulse which resulted in an absolute subsistence fishing closure
 - Federal fisheries managers implemented severe Chinook fisheries regulations to limit the harvest of Chinook salmon to federally qualified rural subsistence users
 - Subsistence fishing was restricted to two 18-hour openings per week on the Lower Yukon districts of Y-1, Y-2, and Y-3
 - In the coastal district, the subsistence fishery was open for seven days a week, however, subsistence fishermen are restricted to six inch maximum mesh nets only; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Fish & Game’s mission is as follows: “To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle; and

WHEREAS: In our villages, the reserves of dried and frozen Chinook salmon, a primary food source, were severely depleted due to high energy costs which trickled down to high grocery costs in the winter of 2008; and

WHEREAS: Due to high energy costs and high grocery costs, people had to rely on more subsistence foods since the cash economy was introduced to our villages.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives calls for the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke, to reject the April 2009 decision of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council addressing the bycatch of Chinook salmon and revert the decision back to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to further protect our Alaska origin Chinook salmon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Commerce utilizes his authority to implement a hard cap of 32,500 Chinook Salmon in the Bering Sea Trawl Fishery by an emergency regulation.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

BOARD ACTION: TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-35

TITLE: COMPOSITION OF THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

WHEREAS: The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC), through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is responsible for the management of fisheries in the marine Exclusive Economic Zone off of the coast of Alaska; and.

WHEREAS: The NPFMC is composed of 11 voting members; and

WHEREAS: The NPFMC does not have tribal representation in any of its membership; and

WHEREAS: The NPFMC current membership primarily represents the interests of the fishing industry; and

WHEREAS: NMFS and the NPFMC frequently develop and carry out actions that may uniquely and significantly affect tribal communities; and

WHEREAS: There is precedent for tribal representatives on the Pacific Fishery Management Council; and

WHEREAS: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act may be amended to modify the composition of the NPFMC; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Delegation to the US Congress put forward amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that would add four voting seats to the NPFMC to be filled by representatives of federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations and other Alaska Native organizations and including the Community Development Quota Programs (CDQ); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AFN call on the Secretary of Commerce to place a moratorium on expanding industrial commercial fisheries North of Saint Matthew Island until the Voting seats are provided to federally recognized tribes or Alaska Naïve Organization representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any nominees for these seats should not be directly employed by a community development quota program or the Pollock industry.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ANCSA/TRIBAL

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-36

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO CONFIRM TRIBAL TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION IN ALASKA TO REGULATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

WHEREAS: Although the state and federal courts have recognized that Alaska Native tribes have civil authority over their own members in some contexts, such as child protection and child custody, the extent of tribal authority to regulate other matters is unclear and the State of Alaska continues to litigate against tribal authority, even in regard to children, in the federal courts; and

WHEREAS: These matters are further complicated by the fact that Alaska is a P. L. 280 state; and

WHEREAS: For at least the last decade, the Alaska Federation of Natives (“AFN”) and the Alaska Native community in general have urged Congress to pass legislation that would confirm that Alaska Native tribes can enforce civil regulatory ordinances to deal with social and wellness issues in their villages, including at the very least the ability to regulate domestic violence, alcoholic beverages and drugs; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has not provided adequate criminal justice services in rural Alaska, particularly in regard to misdemeanor and minor offenses, and is unlikely to ever do so because of the cost of providing law enforcement, judicial, prosecutorial and defense services in remote geographic areas; and

WHEREAS: Many tribal governments in Alaska are ready and able to deal with such issues at home at relatively low cost, but are hampered the lack of clear authority to act and the failure of state institutions to recognize tribal authority; and

WHEREAS: In the current Congress, the Senate is considering S. 797, the “Tribal Law and Order Act of 2009” which is designed primarily to enhance tribal law enforcement, judicial and detention services for reservation tribes; and

WHEREAS: A workgroup of the Alaska Federation of Natives has developed a legislative proposal, the “Alaska Native Tribal Law Enforcement Demonstration Project,” which has been approved by the AFN Human Resources Committee, that would establish and fund a demonstration project wherein up to 30 Alaska Native tribes could develop and enforce, through tribal courts, tribal laws dealing with alcohol, drugs and related offenses within the geographic area of their villages, and including all people of Native American descent and other persons in consensual relationships with Natives; and

WHEREAS: The demonstration project as approved by the AFN Human Resources Committee was designed to be either an amendment to S. 797 or a stand-alone bill; and

WHEREAS: Senator Lisa Murkowski successfully introduced several amendments to S. 797 which would 1) authorize funding for tribal public safety positions funded through the COPS grant program and the Staffing for Fire and Emergency Response program; 2) create a “Community Safety Demonstration Project” for up to 30 tribes for “innovative approaches” to improve public safety in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, drug and alcohol related crimes, which may include tribal courts and the civil enforcement of tribal ordinances against tribal members only; and 3) require the General Accounting Office to conduct a study of the capacity of IHS hospitals in Alaska to process the evidence of sexual assaults needed for criminal prosecutions; and

WHEREAS: Although Senator Murkowski’s amendments would authorize appropriations of \$12 million annually for the fiscal years 2011 through 2015, the Community Safety Demonstration project does not clarify or confirm tribal jurisdiction and would likely lead to litigation with the State if demonstration project tribes attempted to enforce tribal ordinances in cases other than children’s cases;

WHEREAS: There is a savings clause in the legislation that states: (i) Nothing in this Title shall be construed to limit, alter, or diminish the civil or criminal jurisdiction of the State of Alaska, or any subdivision thereof, the United States, or any federally recognized Tribe in Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN continues to support federal legislation to clearly confirm tribal authority to regulate, at a minimum, domestic violence, alcohol and drugs within the villages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports the Alaska Native Tribal Law Enforcement Project as proposed by the Alaska Federation of Natives Human Resources Committee, and urges that it be included in S. 797 or enacted through some other vehicle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN thanks Senator Murkowski and the Alaska Congressional Delegation for their efforts in this matter.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE
ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-37

TITLE: DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF OPTIONS FOR TRANSFERRING RESTRICTED LANDS TO FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS: 231 tribes in Alaska are federally recognized tribal governments under the 1936 amendments of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act; and

WHEREAS: The establishment of each tribal government included the adoption of an authorizing federal charter by the Secretary of Interior; and

WHEREAS: The federal charter provides for the power to acquire restricted Indian lands; and

WHEREAS: The title to any lands or rights acquired pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act or subsequent to the Act of July 28, 1955 (69 Stat. 392), as amended (25 U.S.C. 608 et seq.) shall be taken in the name of the United States in trust for the Indian tribe; and

WHEREAS: There are tribal members who desire to gift deed, transfer, or otherwise have the tribal government obtain control of their allotment; and

WHEREAS: Ownership of these allotments should be transferred so that the lands continue to be protected against alienation and taxation; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native tribes desire to change 25 CFR subsection 151.1 to have land taken into trust by the Secretary of the Interior in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Upon authorization of the duly elected tribal government, such lands shall maintain their federally-protected status.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the review and development of strategies that could allow transfer of federally-restricted Native allotment properties to tribal governments while retaining protections against alienation and taxation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the review and development of strategies and regulations to allow land to be taken into trust in Alaska for Alaska Native Tribes.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE
COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-38

TITLE: REQUESTING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO DIRECT HIS CABINET AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS TO INITIATE TRIBAL CONSULTATION (EXECUTIVE ORDER 13175) IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF ALL LAND AND MARINE WATERS

WHEREAS: During the Clinton Administration era, President Clinton initiated Executive Order # 13175 which directed federal departments to consult with tribes in matters that impact their daily lives and this consultation requirement was extended to the Alaska Native Corporations through Congressional Acts (PL 108-199, Div H, Section 161; and PL 108-447, Div H Title , Sec 518); and

WHEREAS: Our customary, traditional, and inherent Alaska Native subsistence way of life is vital to our physical, cultural, economic and spiritual well-being and provides for our basic sustenance, clothing, and shelter; and

WHEREAS: In many instances, especially during the Bush Administration, federal departments made important decision in land and resource matters without any meaningful consultation of our tribes; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Subsistence Board, consisting of various federal area directors and regional foresters, and a Chair appointed by the Secretary of the Interior under the Bush administration (who is an Alaska Native and was appointed without tribal consultation has consistently made decisions contrary to our lifestyles; and

WHEREAS: Regional Advisory Councils on many issues that impact our subsistence way of life, thus seriously and unnecessarily restricting and undermining our subsistence way of life and acting contrary to the intent of ANILCA that the RACs be afforded great deference in subsistence management decisions; and

WHEREAS: The federal, along with the state, representative to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC) have imposed and required the implementation and enforcement of general federal migratory bird hunting regulations in the AMBCC regulatory pamphlets despite the opposition of its Alaska Native organization representatives and without consultation of the AMBCC; and

WHEREAS: the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, in their area of responsibility as stewards of our marine resources, acted without significant and meaningful tribal consultation and failed to take into consideration the needs of tribes and their heavy dependence on Chinook salmon, and adopted by-catch standards allowing the complete waste of Chinook salmon at levels far above what is needed to protect the Chinook stocks and provided for tribal subsistence needs, and the excessive bycatch contributed to the most restrictive subsistence harvest opportunities on the Yukon River by Alaska Tribes in memory; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the delegates to the Alaska Federation of Natives respectfully request President Obama to evaluate, improve and implement Executive Order 13175 to require all federal departments and agencies to implement a consultation process that is meaningful and significant, requiring the agencies to enter into cooperative and co-management agreements with affected tribes, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act village and regional corporations on all matters and issues important to our daily lives as indigenous peoples of Alaska with an emphasis on land and water resource issues.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-39

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE EQUAL TAX CREDIT RIGHTS OR BENEFITS TO ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS WHO VOLUNTARILY CHOOSES TO CREATE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

WHEREAS: ANCSA corporations have been seeking the tools to permanently protect significant historical or natural habitats, without impeding economic development; and

WHEREAS: ANCSA corporations have a fiduciary responsibility to oversee their lands for the long term benefit of their shareholders; and ANCSA corporations have been seeking the tools to permanently protect significant historical or natural habitats, without impeding economic development; and

WHEREAS: Congress granted to other Non-ANCSA land owners significant conservation easement tools and tax credit benefits that are up to ten times beyond what Congress has made available to ANCSA corporations; and

WHEREAS: Such a tool is the creation of a locally designed and controlled conservation easement which would encourage conservative focused development in significant historical or natural habitats without impeding economic development opportunities in the surrounding area, while still preserving only private access and ownership of critical habitats in support of traditional subsistence activities; and

WHEREAS: Such conservation easements created will continue to be subject to the consent of each Village and each Regional Corporations in order to equitably receive the superior tax credit benefits currently provided to other Non-ANCSA landowners; and

WHEREAS: There is a federal legislative proposal that has been recently introduced in Congress – the Alaska Native Conservation Parity Act of 2009 (S. 1673 and HR 3568) to allow ANCSA landowners to receive the same tax benefits now enjoyed by other private landowners in the United States; and

WHEREAS: The legislative proposal will allow ANCSA landowners to receive a 100 percent, 15 year tax credit equal to the appraised value of the easement; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that it strongly supports the Alaska Native Conservation Parity Act of 2009 as introduced into Congress which allows ANCSA landowners to receive the same tax benefits provided to other private landowners in the United States.

SUBMITTED BY: TYONEK NATIVE CORPORATION AND THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF TYONEK

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-40

TITLE: PROTECTION AGAINST TRESPASS ON ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION LANDS AND NATIVE ALLOTMENTS FROM WILLING DESTRUCTION OF CORPORATION PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRESPASSING

WHEREAS: Alaskan Native Corporation lands and Native allotments experience some of the highest amounts of trespass and property destruction by unauthorized public use; and

WHEREAS: The Division of Alaska State Troopers (AST) is charged with statewide law enforcement, prevention of crime, pursuit and apprehension of offenders, service of civil and criminal process, prisoner transportation, central communications, and search and rescue; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Troopers low prioritization and enforcement of trespass violations on Alaskan Native Corporation and Native allotment lands has detrimentally affected the threat of prosecution and prevention of trespass crimes; and

WHEREAS: Current Alaska state law states trespassing notices must be printed legibly in English, be at least 144 square inches in size, give the name and address of the person under whose authority the property is posted and the name and address of the person who is authorized to grant permission to enter the property, be placed at each roadway and at each way of access onto the property that is known to the land owner; and

WHEREAS: There are requirements of posting no trespassing signs every 50 feet on the boundary of Alaska Native Corporation lands; and

WHEREAS: In some cases trespassers are destroying these signs to evade prosecution or enforcement of the state trespassing laws; and

WHEREAS: ANCSA shareholders are trusting their corporations to provide protection of their ANCSA lands and the State of Alaska for protection of their Native allotments; and

WHEREAS: Some of the trespass problem on ANCSA and allotment lands is caused by air transporters and other transportation service providers who drop clients off on ANCSA lands or allotments, or on river banks surrounded by Native lands where the clients cannot avoid trespass if they leave camp; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Corporations were established through ANCSA in furtherance of a policy of Native self-determination and Alaska Native organizations should be incorporated as full partners into the administration, implementation and enforcement of laws intended to protect ANCSA and native allotments from trespass.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Native, Inc., that AFN hereby request that our Alaska's Congressional Delegation to support federal legislation that would employ the use of federal law and federal enforcement officers in prosecuting trespass on ANCSA lands and Native allotments, including making the willing destruction of trespass signs or private property on Alaskan Native Corporation lands and Native allotments a federal offense, and would fully incorporate Alaska Native organizations as full partners in the administration, implementation and enforcement provisions of the federal trespass law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2009 Annual Convention urge the Alaska Congressional Delegation to encourage and promote public education on this matter and resist any efforts by the State of Alaska to impose jurisdictional control on ANCSA and Native allotment lands.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA, INC
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



YOUTH/ELDERS

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-41

TITLE: REAFFIRM THE INTEGRAL ROLE THAT ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR RESOLUTIONS HAVE IN AFN

WHEREAS: For 26 years, AFN has recognized the integral role that the voice of Alaska Native Elders & Youth have in the Native community; and

WHEREAS: This support has been shown by Elders & Youth Conference participants being welcomed and engaged in AFN in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, attendance at AFN, time on the main floor agenda to report on the Conference, and by incorporating Elders & Youth Resolutions into the AFN Resolutions package; and

WHEREAS: The Elders & Youth Conference participants recognize and greatly appreciate this dedication and support from AFN; and

WHEREAS: As the Conference has evolved over the past 26 years into one of the longest running statewide Alaska Native conferences, so has the ability of its participants to grapple with the many issues and often difficult realities of contemporary Alaska Native life; and

WHEREAS: This competence and growth of knowledge is often exemplified through the resolutions brought to AFN from the Conference; and

WHEREAS: Resolutions from the Conference participants have resulted in local, state, and Congressional action, including influencing and supporting the War on Alcohol and Drugs, Veterans receiving 160 acre allotments, ROSE Urban/Rural Youth Exchange, to name a few; and

WHEREAS: The Elders and youth want to ensure that continued emphasis is placed on the inclusion of this vital voice of our Native peoples in AFN; and

WHEREAS: Over the past few years, the role and relationship that the Elders & Youth Conference participants and their resolutions have in AFN has changed and is in need of reaffirmation of its importance to AFN;

WHEREAS: Efforts must be made to unite, clarify, and empower the Elders & Youth Conference participants and the resolutions with AFN to help promote leadership, knowledge building, and engagement in the issues that affect Alaska Native peoples by our culture bearers and our leaders of tomorrow.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2009 Elders and Youth Annual Conference that AFN is hereby recognized and honored by the 26th Annual Elders and Youth Conference for their dedication, support and recognition of the integral role of the Elders and Youth Conference, its participants, and resolutions over these many year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this dedication, support and recognition be reaffirmed by the AFN Voting Delegation by adoption of this resolution; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that by adopting this resolution as its own, the AFN Voting Delegation emphatically reinforces to AFN and its leadership the continuing need for the recognition and active participation of the Elders & Youth participants and resolutions into AFN; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this participation includes at a minimum, allowing Elders and Youth participants the privilege to address the main AFN delegation, confirming that all Elders & Youth resolutions will be included in the AFN priorities, and the Elders and Youth are allowed to be active participants in the main convention Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to speak to issues and resolutions offered from the Elders & Youth Conference.

SUBMITTED BY: 2009 STATEWIDE ELDERS AND YOUTH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-42

TITLE: MAKING THE ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE A THREE DAY CONFERENCE, MONDAY-WEDNESDAY OF AFN WEEK TO REFLECT THE IMPORTANCE OF ELDER & YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AFN AND TO BUILD UNITY AMONG PARTICIPANT GROUPS DURING THE AFN CONVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS: The Elders and Youth Conference has historically met for two days during AFN week, the Monday and Tuesday preceding the main AFN Convention days of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; and

WHEREAS: The Elders & Youth Conference participants emphatically reiterate that this is not sufficient time to adequately and fully address issues of major importance to the entire Alaska Native community they are a vital part of; create meaningful learning opportunities around culture, language, Tribes, ANCSA, Alaska Native history, politics, and Native identity; and nurture strong relationship building between Elders, Youth, and rising and current Native leaders; and

WHEREAS: From the inception of AFN, all delegates have consistently recognized the wisdom of the Elders and the essential contributions of our Youth to fully interact with AFN leaders who mentor and role model Native identity, pride, dedication to community, and future leadership; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2009 Elders and Youth Annual Conference that AFN and the AFN Board, in honor of the 26 year support of the Elders & Youth Conference, truly unite that Conference with the annual AFN Convention by allowing the Elders & Youth Conference to incorporate the day before the main AFN Convention, generally the Wednesday preceding the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of AFN, as a part of its annual conference; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the AFN Board make the necessary accommodations to honor this action and work with the Elders & Youth Conference to ensure this one day expansion of the annual Elders & Youth Conference creates a unique bridging opportunity between the Elders & Youth and AFN.

SUBMITTED BY: 2009 STATEWIDE ELDERS AND YOUTH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-43

TITLE: SUPPORT OF RURAL AND URBAN YOUTH TO ATTEND AFN CONVENTION

WHEREAS: Over the years a number of youth have moved into urban communities and schools from their villages due to school closures, and educational and employment opportunities for their families; and

WHEREAS: Many of these youth do not adapt well to urban schools with the loss of community nurturing and love that exist in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Many of these youth feel separation anxiety, loss of identity, and culture shock when they are no longer able to participate in our Native way of life through activities such as hunting and fishing, harvesting and gathering, community and cultural celebrations, with their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins, friends and communities; and

WHEREAS: Since many of these youth will grow to be future leaders of the Alaska Native community, it is imperative that they are given the opportunity to be a part of the statewide Native activities that surround AFN, including the Elders & Youth Conference, to ensure their voice is heard, their identity is nurtured, and they have an annual opportunity to engage in the current issues that face Alaska Native communities, and in particular our rural and urban youth; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2009 Elders and Youth Annual Conference that the AFN delegation vote to support rural and urban school districts in creating attendance policies for students that will enable them to attend the Elders & Youth Conference without being penalized for absences and that recognize the cultural and educational significance of the Elders & Youth Conference, by developing curricula that could allow for credit for participation; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the school districts create a system in which participants can receive academic credit for their participation in the Elders & Youth Conference, by either elective cultural enrichment credit or in a specific subject deemed relevant by scholastic boards and administrators.

SUBMITTED BY: 2009 STATEWIDE ELDERS AND YOUTH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 09-44

TITLE: CREATION OF A YOUTH BOARD MEMBER SEAT WITHIN EACH OF THE ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATIONS

WHEREAS: The Statewide Elders and Youth Council recognizes the importance of developing the potential of Alaska Native youth by providing them with the essential knowledge, skills, and experience to become effective leaders; and

WHEREAS: According to the 2000 US Census, more than 44% of Alaska Natives were 19 years of age or younger with a median age of 24, illustrating the large population base that is moving towards leadership; and

WHEREAS: The creation of a youth board seat on each Alaska Native Regional Corporation Board is a vital step in building strong relationships with the next generation of leaders and providing mentorship opportunities at the corporate level and beyond; and

WHEREAS: Some regional corporations have already recognized and embraced this growing population by including younger generations at the corporate level; ASRC, Ahtna, Inc., Doyon, Limited, NANA, and Sealaska have voted to issue stock to lineal descendents of original shareholders who meet the eligibility requirements and are born after December 18, 1971; and

WHEREAS: Many Native organizations have also created Youth Board positions to allow representation at the Board level and to participate first-hand in decision-making, such as NCAI, NIEA, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and Sealaska; and

WHEREAS: Having a board diverse in age, is as equally important and strengthening to the overall board as having a strong combination of various skills, genders, and backgrounds, as well as being more reflective of the value Alaska Native peoples place on the voice of Elders and Youth; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2009 Elders and Youth Council that AFN, through its voting delegation Board, support and encourage every Alaska Native regional corporation to create a youth board seat for shareholders and/or descendants with all rights of authority as other board members.

SUBMITTED BY: 2009 STATEWIDE ELDERS AND YOUTH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: TABLED

