

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTIONS

OCTOBER 25, 2008

**2008 AFN CONVENTION
RESOLUTIONS
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SPECIAL RECOGNITION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-01

TITLE: RECOGNITION OF GRANDMA HANNAH SOLOMON

WHEREAS: Grandma Hannah Solomon has shared her life with the people of the Interior and the State of Alaska; her life is living testimony to the loving, caring and sharing ways and deep spirituality and self-sufficiency of the Gwich'in Athabascan woman; and

WHEREAS: Grandma Hannah's love of life; respect for the land and the people, and sound and thoughtful encouragement and advice has helped countless people in need by establishing services for Alaska Natives living in the Interior, and raising some of the Interior's most respected Native leaders and advocates of tribal rights; and

WHEREAS: Grandma Hannah, through her hard work and loving care, has raised her family in the traditions and language of the Gwich'in people; and

WHEREAS: Grandma Hannah Solomon throughout her long and beautiful life has made it a point to take every opportunity to be "out among her people," sharing her kind words and warm advice at meetings throughout the state; and

WHEREAS: Through her hard work, caring deeds and kind words, Hannah Solomon has extended family and friends throughout Alaska, Canada and beyond, who deeply love, care and respect her as an honored elder, teacher, advisor and "Grandma".

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN honors the contributions of all of Alaska's Native women and especially our Grandmothers, including Hannah Solomon.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

BOARD ACTION: FORWARD TO THE FLOOR OF CONVENTION

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-02

TITLE: HONORING GEORGE INGA SR FOR DEDICATING HIS LIFE TO EDUCATING OTHERS ABOUT OUR PAST AND LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS: George, "Papa" to those who knew him, was an Alutiiq leader and educator of his community, region, Native people and all those that he happened to meet; and

WHEREAS: Papa, like many Elders around the State of Alaska, led a subsistence way of life; just a few days before his death he was out fishing with his Great-Grandson in an open skiff; and

WHEREAS: Papa spent countless hours at the school in Old Harbor helping with Alutiiq history and Alutiiq language studies; and

WHEREAS: Papa lent his knowledge to his region, anthropologists, archeologists and ethnographers; and

WHEREAS: Papa believed in the continuation of the Alutiiq language was an active participant in the creation of the Alutiiq dictionary, Alutiiq study courses and language aids; and

WHEREAS: Papa was an Elder in the community who always had time to visit and discuss the Alutiiq culture, way of life and history of the Native people; and

WHEREAS: Papa was very active in the Old Harbor Native Corporation and his community; he served on the Board of Directors of the Old Harbor Native Corporation for 25+ years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN recognizes and honors George "Papa" Inga Sr. for his lifetime of accomplishments and his dedication to education and the subsistence way of life.

SUBMITTED BY: OLD HARBOR NATIVE CORPORATION AND OLD HARBOR TRIBAL COUNCIL

BOARD ACTION: FORWARD TO THE FLOOR OF CONVENTION

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



AFN BOARD RESOLUTIONS

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-03

TITLE: IN-MIGRATION FROM RURAL ALASKA INTO URBAN CENTERS

WHEREAS: A prosperous, culturally diverse Alaska depends on flourishing villages and thriving cities; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska's rural communities are facing school closings, record high energy prices, lack of economic opportunities and public safety concerns resulting in unprecedented out-migration to urban centers; and,

WHEREAS: The high cost of energy is one of the key factors in forcing families to leave rural Alaska and migrate into the urban centers; and

WHEREAS: AFN and the Alaska Native Community have deep concerns over what appears to be an unfortunate realignment underway in the State of Alaska prompted by challenging conditions in many rural communities; and

WHEREAS: This in-migration from rural Alaska into Anchorage, for example, is causing an unexpected increase in student enrollment in the Anchorage School District, causing potentially difficult budget issues for the ASD; and,

WHEREAS: KTUU, in its September 15, 2008, newscast reported that enrollment in the Bristol Bay School District has resulted in a 20-year low in 2008 of just 140 students; that Nome lost 60 students and that many rural school districts throughout the state are seeing major declines in school enrollment due to the high cost of living; and

WHEREAS: The Governor has rejected a proposal to create an emergency task force with local, state and federal officials to take immediate steps to stop this trend that is taking place in our state, and has instead said that her rural sub-cabinet will address the issue; and

WHEREAS: AFN does not view the Governor's response to this problem as sufficient to address the unprecedented out-migration from Alaska's rural communities that is occurring in large part due to high energy prices and lack of economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) and the Alaska Native Community cannot standby and tolerate the deterioration of Rural Alaska; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the delegates of the 2008 Annual Convention urges the creation of a Legislative/Administrative Task Force, with public members charged with the responsibility of making recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on steps that can be

taken that will make it possible for people who want to remain in their rural communities to do so; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Legislative/Administrative Task force is urged to consider and address, among other things, the following:

1. Whether adequate transition programs and services exist in Alaska's urban communities to handle the in-migration of people from rural Alaska; and
2. What can be done to address the high cost of energy in rural Alaska, which is, in large part, driving the in-migration into urban centers; and
3. Passage of a Rural Economic Stimulus Package, which will help build and maintain vibrant economies in rural Alaska; and
4. The need for increased funding for services and programs in both rural and urban areas; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Governor is urged to transmit to the Legislature a supplemental appropriation to offset the high cost of energy for schools, health facilities and other public facilities in rural communities.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-04

TITLE: NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT OF 1990 (NAGPRA) IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

WHEREAS: The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) is a Federal law that provides a process for museums and Federal agencies to return certain Native American cultural items -- human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony - to lineal descendants, culturally affiliated Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations and also the disposition of Native American cultural items and human remains removed from federal or tribal lands; and

WHEREAS: NAGPRA has played an essential role in empowering Native American communities to recover culturally important items from Federal agencies and museums and thus has helped to right past wrongs, and has also fostered productive relationships between Native communities and Federal agencies and museums; and

WHEREAS: NAGPRA has led to many successes, but its future success depends on continued support from Congress; and

WHEREAS: Congressional funding for NAGPRA has not increased since FY 1996; and

WHEREAS: The NAGPRA Review Committee, which was created under the legislation, has consistently reported on barriers encountered in the implementation of NAGPRA and has offered its recommendations to rectify these barriers in its annual Report to Congress including its concern about the annual shortfalls in overall program funding; federal agency compliance with NAGPRA; the ability to rebury ancestral remains in the original internment sites; the substantial backlog of civil penalties investigations, substantiation and disposition; and the definition of Native American as it was challenged by the Kennewick Man court decision, and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native corporations and tribes have experienced the barriers which have been identified by the NAGPRA Review Committee; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that Congress, including Alaska's congressional delegation, Senator Stevens, Senator Murkowski and Congressman Young, is urged to take the following actions:

1. Appropriate at least \$10 million in grants to Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and museums and the amounts requested by the

administration that is targeted for each Federal agency's compliance efforts;

2. Immediately call for Congressional Oversight Hearings and a Government Accountability Office Study to address the issues of federal agency compliance; the ability to rebury ancestral remains in the original internment sites, and the substantial backlog of civil penalties;
3. Amend the definition of "Native American" in 25 U.S.C. 3001 (9) by adding the words "or was" so that it reads: "'Native American' means of, or relating to, a tribe, people, or culture that is, or was indigenous to the United States;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor of the State of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature develop, enact, implement and fully fund a state law parallel to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-05

TITLE: THE ENERGY CRISIS IN RURAL ALASKA

WHEREAS: The cost of living in rural Alaska has sky-rocketed over the past year, due to the cost of fuel and gasoline - and the ripple effect this has on the cost of groceries, medicine, transportation, clothing and other supplies; and

WHEREAS: Residents of rural villages pay twice as much as Anchorage residents for electricity, but they consume only 40% as much power; and even with Power Cost Equalization, rural households pay from 0.19 to 0.30 cents per KWH, well above the 0.09 to 0.10 cents per KWH in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS: In some villages, with gasoline as high as \$11 per gallon, people could not go to fish camp enough this summer to harvest winter food supplies; and

WHEREAS: The high cost of energy has increased migration to urban areas, further pinching the limited resources of those who are remaining in the villages; and

WHEREAS: If thousands of people are forced to move to the cities, the socio-economic impacts on urban Alaska will diminish the well-being of everyone; and

WHEREAS: The State and Federal governments may be looking at multiple disaster declarations and emergency appropriations this winter; and

WHEREAS: While the Alaska Legislature's Special Session in August provided one-year emergency relief -- a \$1200 resource rebate, an increase in the ceiling on PCE, an increase in the amount of Bulk Fuel Loans; and suspension of the state motor fuel tax -- these steps alone will not solve the problem; and

WHEREAS: Alaska needs public and private investment planning to provide further short-term economic relief for rural residents and longer-term development of Alaska's abundant renewable energy resources, including training for "green jobs;" and

WHEREAS: State and federal governments must take a multi-faceted approach that provides sustainable, affordable energy to all Alaskans; encourages conservation; and promotes economic prosperity for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The Native community - its people, communities, organizations and leaders - will cooperate with governments and the private sector in design and implementation of a statewide energy policy that addresses both the immediate crisis and the long-term energy needs of Alaska;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that, by no later than the summer of 2009, the Governor and Legislature must complete the design of a comprehensive state energy policy and plan that includes:

1. Increased funding for Power Cost Equalization, expansion of this program to include all public and private facilities; and an increase of its limit from 500kWh per month to the national average of 750kWh, and a higher PCE ceiling;
2. Action to buy down the debt of rural utilities and put a price cap on fuel stocks purchased prospectively;
3. Increased support for bulk fuel purchasing, transportation and cooperative purchase agreements, as well as state contributions to the Denali Commission's bulk fuel storage program;
4. A sizable investment of the State's billions of dollars to promote renewable, alternative energy and energy efficiency efforts;
5. A program to cap rural gas and oil costs at urban rates, and that the State of Alaska pick up the difference until such time as low cost alternative energy programs are developed and implemented in rural Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal Administration and Congress should take the following steps:

1. To work with the State to create economic incentives for deployment of private capital to bring renewable, alternative energy resources on-line for rural communities;
2. To double the federal Production Tax Credit for renewable energy projects in Alaska's communities;
3. To increase funding for the Denali Commission's energy projects;
4. To increase the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and to urge the State to add its own appropriations to this program;
5. To fully fund and implement the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;
6. To provide economic incentives and funding for creation of local and regional energy authorities in rural Alaska; and

7. To provide energy rebates and other incentives for energy efficiency and conservation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2008 Annual AFN Convention that the State and Federal governments are urged to declare that a state of emergency exists in rural Alaska due to the high cost of heating oil and fuel.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-06

- TITLE:** CALLING ON ALASKA NATIVES TO MOBILIZE IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE ENERGY CRISIS IN RURAL ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** This summer, the cost of energy skyrocketed in rural Alaska, creating the highest per capita power and fuel costs in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Fuel prices in some villages are at \$11 per gallon; and in winter, a village home can use four or five 55-gallon drums of heating oil each month;
- WHEREAS:** Even with Power Cost Equalization, people in remote communities are paying twice as much as Anchorage residents for electricity, while consuming only 40% as much power; rural households pay 41% of their annual incomes on home energy, compared to 4% paid by people in Anchorage; and
- WHEREAS:** Rural businesses, schools and clinics are struggling, and some village governments are barely able to provide essential services; and
- WHEREAS:** High fuel prices have accelerated out-migration from rural Alaska to urban centers, threatening the very survival of some remote communities, and
- WHEREAS:** As Native people migrate to cities, educational, health and public safety issues emerge; and some of our people could end up homeless, without work, and without family support systems; and
- WHEREAS:** If we assume that the energy crisis in rural Alaska will be solved solely by government, we are in denial and dependency; and
- WHEREAS:** Our village councils, business advocacy organizations and corporations have the natural resources and/or management capacity to work with the private sector, municipal, state and federal governments, and financiers to begin investing in new and renewable sources of energy; and
- WHEREAS:** Our tribes and regional non-profits have a strong interest in obtaining affordable energy to maintain our way of life; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2008 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that our Native people and institutions must commit their own resources (money, time and effort) - in partnership with local, regional and state governments, as well as with private partners -- to implement policies that are needed to address the immediate crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Natives, in concert with other public and private entities, must commit the same effort to the longer-term task of reducing dependence on fossil fuels, promoting conservation and investing in the development of renewable, alternative energy resources.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-07

TITLE: NATIVE AMERICAN TITLE IN FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

WHEREAS: The current downturn in the U.S. economy is likely to be a top priority for the incoming Administration; and

WHEREAS: Congress is currently considering a new economic stimulus package, which Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told the House Budget Committee on October 20, “seems appropriate” given the expectation that the economy will “likely be weak for several quarters, and with some risk of a protracted slowdown;” and

WHEREAS: Native Americans, including Alaska Native Tribal governments and ANCSA Corporations, should be included in any economic stimulus efforts; and

WHEREAS: The need for a large-scale, creative, and comprehensive economic stimulus program for Native Americans and Alaska Natives is clear – they suffer from high unemployment and low educational attainment, lack of adequate physical and technological infrastructures, struggle with poor health and are hampered economically by low income levels.; there is no group of people with a more urgent economic crisis than Native Americans and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native villages are in dire need of a comprehensive stimulus that will improve their schools, provide better health care, invigorate village and regional economies so they can provide employment and investment, strengthen and maintain infrastructure and housing facilities, and bring Alaska Native villages and the reservations full-force into the American and international markets; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that any economic stimulus or economic recovery package adopted by the Congress should include a Native American title, that would provide for the following, among other things:

1. Workforce Development: job training for our workers so they can compete in the global economy while also respecting the values of local communities;
2. New, long-term, no-interest or low-interest loans to stimulate growth and investment;
3. Substantial investment in sustainable and alternative energy projects;
4. Invest in infrastructure in Alaska villages and lower-48 reservations as a way of creating good-paying jobs immediately;

5. Help families cope with the rising cost of energy and prevent cuts to vital government services such as health, education and public safety;
6. Provide economic incentives to conserve energy (including tax credits, low interest loans, rebates and grants to weatherize homes and grants to purchase more efficient heating systems, wind generators, solar panels and other technologies;
7. Enact and fund S.2232, the Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act, creating a total of five pilot projects in remote predominately Native American areas modeled after lessons learned from the U.S. experience in providing foreign aid to the developing world. The project would use a compacting model to channel significant development funds to implement locally designed economic development strategies, including energy strategies, with the objective of creating jobs and increasing private investment; and
8. Restructure debt of small businesses in Indian country and in rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-08

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 who were 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: Federal contracting is a highly concentrated market place with the market dominated by a handful of large companies, Native American enterprises have struggled to break into this market and only recently have become successful participants in the 8(a) program; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Corporations and Tribal enterprises receive less than 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 2005; 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: There have been attempts made to repeal the Native 8(a) program without adequate consideration of the Federal government's unique obligations to Native Americans and the quality services that Native enterprises provide to federal customers; 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 support and fund mentor-protégé programs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN 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 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; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives strongly encourages the Small Business Administration 8(a) program to convene workshops and educational sessions in rural hub communities like Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Dillingham and others to encourage active participation in the 8(a) program by village corporations and tribally chartered businesses.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-09

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA) PROGRAMS

WHEREAS: The President's FY 2009 budget calls for an overall net reduction of \$64.3 million in Tribal Priority Allocations (TPA), which is 8.3% below the 2008 enacted level, and the elimination of funding for a number of programs that are important to our villages; and

WHEREAS: The reduction in TAP funding comes at a time when Alaska's tribal compactors and contractors are experiencing a significant increase in the cost of living due in large part to the spike in oil prices and the ripple effect that has had on the cost of delivering services; the current cost of fuel ranges between \$5.00 and \$9.00 a gallon in most tribal communities and as high as \$11.00 in some of our villages; and

WHEREAS: The BIA compacting model has been one of the most successful and effective ways to get resources down to the local level quickly to stimulate rural tribal economies; and

WHEREAS: The proposed cuts to the BIA budget and outright elimination of some BIA-funded programs will have a detrimental effect on our villages and will prevent our people from becoming more self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS: The proposed elimination of the Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program, which provides supplemental funding to address the unique educational and cultural needs of Native children attending public school, limits our ability to pass on our culture to our young people and undermines the progress we have made in that regard with our school districts; it is the only federally funded program that permits student, parental, and community involvement in meeting the special educational needs of Native youth, providing funding for a range of vital academic remedial services and cultural programs; and

WHEREAS: The Higher Education funding, in particular, has ensured that our young people are able to obtain the skills necessary to become productive members of the workforce; and

WHEREAS: The General Assistance Program (GA), which was transformed from a welfare program to a workfare program, enabled many of our people to rejoin the workforce by providing the skills and motivation essential to becoming valuable and contributing members of our villages; and

WHEREAS: The Indian Reservation Roads Program (IRR) has enabled tribes to partner with our city governments to provide maximum resources to improve tribal and community infrastructure and to provide training opportunities to tribal members so they can be employed in the construction industry; and

WHEREAS: The Housing Improvement Program (HIP) has been eliminated from the President's budget for FY 2009, despite the importance of the program to our communities; it serves the elderly and disabled, reducing substandard housing and homelessness by providing housing repairs, essential renovations and new construction of modest housing. NAHASDA funding cannot supplant the HIP Program since it does not offer assistance to the most needy of Alaska's Native families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN encourage the next Administration and the Congress to increase funding for TPA in the BIA appropriations for FY 2009 to a level that at least keeps pace with the rate of inflation, and that covers other built-in costs; reinstate funding for the BIA HIP program and the Johnson O'Malley Education Grants program and oppose funding cuts to other vital human services programs.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-10

- TITLE: OPPOSING BIA ILLEGAL IMPOUNDMENT OF FUNDS AND TERMINATION OF HIP AND JOM FUNDING
- WHEREAS: Congress recently enacted the FY 2009 continuing resolution providing funding for BIA programs and services for 157 days (43.01% annual budget); and
- WHEREAS: Secretary Kempthorne has approved directives to eliminate the Johnson O'Malley, the Housing Improvement Program, and General Assistance for "Employable Recipients;" and
- WHEREAS: These program eliminations violate federal law in that they have not been approved by Congress (*Wilson v. Watt*, 703 F.2d 395 (9th Cir. 1983)), and the eligibility regulations for the General Assistance program have not been changed in a manner required by the Federal Administrative Procedure Act (5 USC § 553); and
- WHEREAS: Secretary Kempthorne has approved directives to reduce funding to Higher Education Scholarships by 20% and Road Maintenance by 50%; and
- WHEREAS: Tribes and Tribal Organizations operating Self-Determination contracts and compacts have the right to re-program appropriated funds to authorized programs, functions, services, and activities (PFSA's); and
- WHEREAS: It is unclear whether the BIA is proposing to infringe upon tribes' rights of self-determination in the operation of tribally operated contracts and compacts by attempting to prohibit tribes from exercising these rights; and
- WHEREAS: These changes were made without tribal consultation as mandated by Executive Order 13175 , and Executive Memorandum *Government-to-Government Relationship with Tribal Governments* issued on September 23, 2004 by President George W. Bush; and
- WHEREAS: The reduction of these funds and program eliminations will disrupt tribal communities and destabilize tribal families, undermine Native self-determination of tribal programming, and re-institute failed policies of federal paternalism; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2008 Annual Convention that they call upon Secretary Kempthorne to:

- 1) abandon planned program eliminations that violate federal law;
- 2) freeze implementation of new General Assistance standards until the Secretary amends applicable regulations in a manner consistent with the federal Administrative Procedure Act;
- 3) affirm the rights of tribes operating programs under Self-Determination contracts and compacts to re-budget appropriated funds for programs proposed for administrative elimination;
- 4) engage in tribal consultations on an area-by-area basis to determine tribal priorities as to any planned program eliminations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources to hold oversight hearings on the Secretary's actions.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-11

TITLE: AMENDMENTS TO THE HEAD START ACT OF 2007

WHEREAS: The Head Start Act of 2007 includes inappropriate language dictating the composition of Governing Boards for the Head Start program; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Directors/Tribal Government is the Governing Body of most tribal Head Start programs and it is inappropriate for Congress to dictate who the Tribes elect to their Governing Boards; and

WHEREAS: Section 642(c)(1)(b)(vi) of the Head Start Act states that Tribal Councils serving as the Governing Body must use a consultant to meet the new compositional requirement of the Governing Board, but does not provide additional funding to contract with consultants; and

WHEREAS: Section 653 of the Head Start Act includes a cap on the compensation that can be paid to Head Start staff, which also precludes the use of any Federal funds (including indirect funds) to pay any part of the compensation of an individual employed by a Head Start agency whose compensation exceeds the rate payable for level II of the Executive Schedule; and

WHEREAS: Many tribal Head Start contractors also contract and run Indian Health Service programs and employ doctors, dentists and other health care professionals whose salaries, based on market rates, often exceed the rate payable for level II of the Executive Schedule and their salaries are paid fully or in part by indirect funds; and

WHEREAS: Implementation of this compensation cap could force Tribal and other Head Start programs who compact and run other programs to relinquish their Head Start funding and force children to go without services; and

WHEREAS: It is inappropriate for Congress to dictate the salaries of Tribal employees, even when the salaries are paid either partially or in full using indirect funds; and

WHEREAS: Tribes and other Governing Bodies have the right to determine the members on their own Governing Boards and the right to determine the compensation for employees within their organization and for their Head Start program; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that Congress is urged to amend the Head Start Act of 2007 to:

1. Delete language that dictates the composition of Governing Boards for Tribes or Tribal organizations that operate a Head Start program; and
2. Delete language that dictates the regulation of salaries for Tribal and other organization staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives is urged to work in partnership with the National Indian Head Start Directors Association, the National Head Start Association and the National Congress of American Indians to reach agreement on proposed changes to the Head Start Act in terms of rules or regulations concerning the governance of the Head Start Program and the compensation that can be paid to staff in and outside of the Head Start Program.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-12

TITLE: APPOINTMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES TO SERVE IN STATE GOVERNMENT AND RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ALASKA'S DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

WHEREAS: There are 122 state boards and commissions in Alaska to which the Governor has direct appointment authority; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Corporations in 12 regions and over 200 villages own 44 million acres of land with thousands of fish and game resources that are under state management; and

WHEREAS: Many of these boards and commissions deal with issues that have a great impact on the lives of Alaska Natives and for which they are particularly situated to provide a valuable point of view and expertise, i.e., the Board of Game and the Board of Fish; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska does not have a single designated department to focus on rural communities and Alaska Native issues; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives comprise over twenty percent (20%) of the total population of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives are under-represented in State government and as a result many issues important to Alaska Natives have suffered from inattention; and

WHEREAS: There are certain positions, such as the Governor's Rural Advisor, that should be filled by an Alaska Native because, as Rhonda McBride recently noted, Alaska's tribal governments and regional non-profits are doing the heavy lifting in rural Alaska in terms of providing most of the day-to-day governmental and human services to residents of our small rural communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Governor is urged to appoint more Alaska Natives to positions of importance within the Administration, and to actively recruit and appoint Alaska Natives to vacancies on the State's Boards and Commissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's office is urged to work with AFN and its member organizations in its recruitment efforts to find accomplished Native individuals who are interested in seeking appointment to key positions with the Administration and to seats on the various Boards and Commissions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Governor of the State of Alaska is urged to re-establish the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs to focus on the needs of rural communities and Alaska Native issues.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-13

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA MARKETPLACE INITIATIVE BY THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives has begun a project, together with many partners, called the “Alaska Marketplace,” which has successfully operated for three years and is entering its fourth year; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Marketplace is a competition for innovative business ideas by Alaska Natives, which provides monetary awards to successful applicants, from public and private funding sources; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Marketplace supports Cultural Heritage, Innovation, Sustainability/Profitability, and creates job opportunities to benefit rural Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Marketplace goal is to showcase business ideas for stimulating economic development in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Marketplace has drawn considerable local, regional and statewide media coverage; and the Alaska Marketplace and the Denali Commission earned a National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Award for 2008; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Marketplace has brought a broad spectrum of partners from across the state—civil society groups, social entrepreneurs, government agencies, academia, and the private sector resulting in numerous different funding agreements; and has established over 40 in-kind partnerships.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that on behalf of our Native people and communities, we support the continuation of the Alaska Marketplace and applaud AFN and the partner organizations and companies that have contributed to the Alaska Marketplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention will help AFN support and publicize the Alaska Marketplace competition with the Alaska villages.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



SUBSISTENCE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-14

TITLE: TO PROVIDE LASTING FEDERAL PROTECTION FOR THE
SUBSISTENCE WAY OF LIFE OF ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES

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 in today's Native villages in rural Alaska; and

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

WHEREAS: Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) defines "subsistence uses" as the "customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation;" and

WHEREAS: Congress recognized that the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses was "essential to Native physical, economic, traditional and cultural existence;" and

WHEREAS: To ensure that Native villages would be able to continue its customary and traditional subsistence uses, Congress declared subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and other renewable resources the priority consumptive use of those resources on the federal public lands in Alaska and gave rural Alaskan residents a priority for subsistence uses over sport and commercial uses of fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS: After the 1989 Alaska Supreme Court's ruling in *McDowell* holding that the State's rural priority violated Alaska's Constitution, the Federal Subsistence Board was required, among other things, to provide for regulations to implement Title VIII's rural priority, including determining which communities in Alaska are "rural" in nature; and

WHEREAS: The regulations call for a review of the rural/nonrural determinations on a 10-year cycle to determine a community's status as rural or non-rural; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Subsistence Board recently completed its first ten year review of the rural/nonrural characteristics of communities in Alaska and concluded that Saxman was no longer "rural," despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary; and

WHEREAS: The determination that a community is nonrural means that the customary and traditional way of life for Indigenous people living in those areas and/or communities will be eliminated; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Government has a trust or special relationship with the Indigenous people of Alaska that carries with it the solemn responsibility to protect our rights; and

WHEREAS: The Federal government is not honoring its trust responsibility to Alaska's Native villages when it refuses to interpret federal law in a way that enables Native villages like Saxman to remain classified as "rural" so its residents can continue to live a subsistence way of life; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have sacrificed much in the struggle to preserve cultural identity and life ways; and

WHEREAS: The measures taken by Congress in Title VIII of ANILCA are slowly being weakened to the point at which many of our people are at risk of losing their ability to feed their children from their traditional hunting and fishing territory; and

WHEREAS: Communities such as Kodiak, Sitka and Ninilchik and other Native villages on the road system are in danger of losing their "rural" status and thus their ability to continue to engage in their customary and traditional subsistence way of life in the next 10-year review; and

WHEREAS: It is time for Congress to include permanent protections for Alaska's Native Villages by providing a priority not only for "rural" residents, but also for residents of Native Villages, such as Saxman, regardless of the rural/nonrural status of the area or community surrounding those villages; and

WHEREAS: With future development, like the construction of the Alaska Gas Pipeline and resource development in rural areas, Alaska will likely experience a population increase in the same magnitude as occurred with the construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline in the 1970's, where thousands of people flocked to Alaska and stayed; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2008 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN encourage Congress to provide permanent protection for the customary and traditional subsistence uses of all Alaska Native Villages, regardless of the rural/nonrural status of the areas surrounding such villages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture take the following steps to protect our way of life:

1. revisit policies for determining rural status and "customary and traditional uses," so that subsistence-dependent communities will not lose their protections or have to spend precious resources to establish customary and traditional uses; and
2. honor the federal government's trust responsibility to Alaska Natives by giving a broad interpretation to the terms "rural" and "customary and traditional uses" in order to allow Alaska Natives an opportunity to continue to live a subsistence way of life for so long as they choose to do so, as was Congress' original intent; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the candidates for President pledge their support for strong federal protections for our subsistence way of life.

SUBMITTED BY: ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-15

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO ENTER INTO GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH ALASKA'S TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS TO INITIATE REGIONAL CO-MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES THROUGH THE REGIONAL SOLICITORS OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WHEREAS: The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has a trust responsibility and obligation to consult and communicate with affected tribes prior to initiating, implementing and administering law enforcement procedures against the tribal members of federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS: United States Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers have stopped subsistence hunters in Barrow from harvesting migratory bird species effective September 1, 2008, requiring subsistence hunters to obtain State of Alaska Sport Hunter's Duck Stamps, Hunting Licenses and Federal Duck Stamps; and

WHEREAS: The Native Village of Barrow and Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope Tribal Governments have not held government-to-government consultation meetings with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in accordance Presidential Executive Order 13175 and The Native American Policy of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's affected federally recognized tribal governments under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 desire to enter into direct government-to-government consultation and collaboration meetings under Presidential Executive Order 13175, and through the Native American Policy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Policy Principles", and

WHEREAS: The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Policy Principles VI Funding states: "The Service will assist Native American governments in identifying Federal and non-Federal funding sources that are available to them for fish and wildlife resource management activities;" and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN encourages the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to:

1. Cooperate with Alaska's federally recognized tribal governments to recognize the sovereign status of the affected tribes in accordance with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Policy Principals for government-to-government consultation purposes.

2. Maintain government-to-government relationships with Alaska's tribal governments and work directly with them in partnership in accordance with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Policy Principals; and
3. Support the right of tribal governments to exercise their rights to self-determination and support their missions and objectives in assuming program management roles and responsibilities through contracting and other mechanisms; and
4. Enter into consultations with Alaska's tribal governments on fish and wildlife resource matters of mutual interest and concern to the extent allowed by law; and
5. Upon request by a tribal government, encourage and facilitate communication and cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to identify and delineate the respective roles and responsibilities to ensure that issues of common interest and concerns are discussed on a government-to-government basis; and
6. Upon request, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provide a liaison between tribal governments and the United States Department of the Interior Solicitor on fish and wildlife matters; and
7. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will assist the federally recognized tribes of Alaska in identifying Federal and non-Federal funding sources available to them for fish and wildlife resource management.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF BARROW, INUPIAT
COMMUNITY OF ARCTIC SLOPE AND UKPEAGVIK
INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-16

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF A SUBSISTENCE PRODUCTION SUPPORT PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering have provided food and its by-products to Alaska Natives for thousands of years and continue to be critical to the survival of residents in today's villages in rural Alaska –for Natives and non-Natives – and is recognized in both federal and state law as the priority use of Alaska fish and game resources; and

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

WHEREAS: The right to continue to harvest wild renewable resources and live a traditional subsistence way of life was one of the commitments Congress made to Alaska's Native people when it enacted Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980; that law provides express protections for the physical, economic, traditional and cultural existence of Alaska's villages by giving a rural priority to local subsistence users on most federal lands and waters in the state; and

WHEREAS: Today, rural Alaska is experiencing an energy crisis that is significantly greater than anywhere else in Alaska or the Nation; fuel oil prices in some villages have gone as high as \$10 per gallon; and

WHEREAS: In addition to the high heating costs faced by Alaska's remote rural population, food security and basic health are directly linked to the increased costs of energy necessary to acquire subsistence resources; and

WHEREAS: Substantial portions of the basic subsistence diet are produced from local fish, wildlife, birds, plants and other resources, and acquisition of these foods requires transit to sites for their procurement, normally by some means of motorized transport (four-wheeler, boat, snow machine); and

WHEREAS: With gasoline prices reaching over \$7.50/gallon, many families and individuals in rural Alaska struggled to get to fish camp this summer in order to harvest food for the winter; and this was true for hunting this fall, and will be a continuing problem over the winter and into the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS: This crisis threatens the very survival of remote villages through out-migration of people who can no longer afford to live in their own homelands, creating a corresponding social and economic crisis in urban Alaska; and

WHEREAS: A program of financial support for subsistence transport costs in rural Alaska is vitally needed to insure the food security and health of elders and children, who are especially vulnerable without a good quality diet; and

WHEREAS: Such a program of support would help insure that customary and traditional fresh, high quality local foods are available to remote rural residents and will extend the effectiveness of the State's efforts to provide assistance for heating costs and ensure that people do not have to leave their villages in order to feed themselves; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges the State of Alaska to immediately implement a special subsistence relief program in rural Alaska to help offset the drastically increased cost of transportation to harvest subsistence foods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State work with the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Federal Subsistence Board and the University of Alaska-Anchorage in the design and implementation of such a program; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, allocate a portion of the \$15 million set aside for Hawaii and Alaska in the Farm Bill passed in 2007 to develop a sustained Subsistence Production Support Program for rural Alaska under the Disadvantaged Farmers and Fisherman Program, to offset the drastically increased transportation costs of producing subsistence foods in rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-17

TITLE: REQUESTING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE TO TAKE EMERGENCY AND PERMANENT ACTION TO REGULATE SALMON BYCATCH IN THE BERING SEA POLLOCK FISHERY

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) takes an active role whenever the traditional Subsistence Way of Life and the economic stability of our Native villages are threatened; and

WHEREAS: The 2008 Chinook salmon returns on many river systems in Alaska, including the AVCP Region, were far below the number necessary for conservation, to meet international treaty requirements to provide for the needs of the Indigenous people in Canada, and far below the number of Chinook salmon necessary to meet the subsistence needs of Alaska Native families and to provide for commercial opportunities essential to meet the financial needs of the Alaska Native 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 window regulations in place for the entire Yukon River; for the AVCP region that meant two 36-hour open periods a week; 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 two 36-hour openers in the Lower River districts down to two 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 bycatch 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: At their June meeting in Kodiak, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined that the NPFMC would likely not take final action regulating bycatch in the Pollock fishery until April 2009, and that the regulations will probably not be implemented until the start of the 2011 Pollock fishery season; 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 going without meeting subsistence needs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN encourage the NPFMC and the NMFS take action, through emergency authority, to regulate the 2009 Bering Sea Pollock fishery, and to implement permanent regulations applicable for the 2010 Pollock fishery, and that such regulations restrict the Chinook bycatch so as to ensure the conservation and rebuilding of Western Alaska Chinook salmon stocks and to ensure and prioritize the restoration of thriving subsistence and commercial Chinook salmon fisheries in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a hard cap of no more than 30,000 Chinook salmon be put in place in order to further protect our fully utilized salmon stocks.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-18

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF ALASKA'S ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY WAY OF LIFE REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REGULATIONS FOR HARVESTING HERRING EGGS

WHEREAS: Subsistence gathering and harvesting of herring eggs constitute our nutritional, spiritual, and cultural foundation since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS: Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, addressing Alaska Native claims to ownership of Alaska's lands, based on "aboriginal use and occupancy"; and

WHEREAS: Congress enacted Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act granting a priority for the subsistence uses of rural residents over other uses of fish and game on federal lands and waters; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska continues to aggressively promote, enhance and develop their own fish policies, procedures and management that vigorously attempt to extinguish our aboriginal way of life; and

WHEREAS: The subsistence use of herring eggs is a statewide tradition for Alaska Natives, as eggs are shared with Alaska Natives throughout the State of Alaska; herring are the life support of our ecosystem, nourishing the salmon, halibut, and marine mammals we depend on; and

WHEREAS: Despite continued efforts to work with the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the collaborative management of the commercial herring fisheries, there continues to be extremely poor subsistence herring egg harvests due to the lack of quality spawn while the commercial fishermen continue to harvest record catches; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN supports efforts to protect the subsistence harvest of herring eggs by supporting the Alaska Board of Fisheries proposal 234 which would increase the Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) herring eggs in Sitka Sound to 265,000-325,000 pounds.

SUBMITTED BY: SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-19

- TITLE:** EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA) REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD USE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS FUNDS TO ESTABLISH AN ICWA RESPONSE CENTER
- WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs Human Services Division in Washington, D.C., has proposed changes to the Indian Child Welfare Act regulations (25 CFR 23.11) regarding notice of involuntary child custody proceedings; and
- WHEREAS:** The proposed regulations would eliminate the requirement for state courts to send notices to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Offices and would instead required that all notices be sent to a proposed “Indian Child Welfare Act Response Center” to be located in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs Chief of Human Services, Ms. Stephanie Birdwell, in a “Dear Tribal Leader” letter (with no date) stated that the current notice procedure “is generating a substantial backlog and delay in the processing of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) notices by the BIA”; and
- WHEREAS:** Ms. Birdwell held a series of tribal “consultation” meetings in five locations in November and December 2007, to discuss the proposed changes with tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS:** At the November 15, 2007, meeting in Albuquerque, Ms. Birdwell admitted that the “backlogs” were occurring at the BIA Central Office and not the BIA Regional Offices; and
- WHEREAS:** The establishment of the ICWA Response Center in Albuquerque would disrupt existing relationships between state courts, state child welfare agencies and the BIA, and would result in greater backlogs and delays on the part of the BIA Central Office; and
- WHEREAS:** Ms. Birdwell stated at the December 4, 2007, meeting in Sacramento that she planned to implement the changes regardless of tribal opposition; and

WHEREAS: The proposed regulatory changes could harm the interests of Indian children, families and tribes; and

WHEREAS: The BIA failed to follow the requirements of Executive Order 13175 in proposing the regulatory changes; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN express its strong opposition to the proposed changes to the ICWA regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska's Congressional delegation is urged to support language in the FY 2009 Interior Appropriations Act that would prohibit the BIA from promulgating the proposed regulatory changes and from using BIA funds to establish an ICWA Response Center.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-20

TITLE: RURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS: Funding sources for health care services in rural communities are limited; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives living in rural communities do not have as easy access to medical facilities as those in urban areas; and

WHEREAS: In some cases rural medical facilities' funding does not fit nor meet the needs of quality health care for their respective patients; and

WHEREAS: Doctors cannot prescribe some medications for patients in need because they do not have the funding to carry said medication(s); and

WHEREAS: Presently, there are certain medications that are unavailable to patients living in rural areas that are available in urban communities; and

WHEREAS: The quality of medical care in rural communities can be improved by attracting qualified physicians, physician assistants, health aides and new medications for patients; and

WHEREAS: There is the possibility that needless deaths may have occurred and may occur due to the lack of quality health care in some rural communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., hereby request that AFN support seeking increased federal and state funding to ensure equally qualified health care benefits to each and every Native Alaskan no matter where they may live within the great State of Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AFN also work with the Tribal Health Consortium in seeing that these health care needs are met.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG REGION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-21

TITLE: ELDER LONG-TERM CARE

WHEREAS: Long-term care facilities throughout the state of Alaska are extremely limited; and

WHEREAS: Most are located in larger urban areas and a few in regional hubs; and

WHEREAS: Essentially none are located in the majority of the villages; and

WHEREAS: Facilities that do exist are under staffed, overcrowded and under-funded; and

WHEREAS: As a result, the basic needs of elders are not properly addressed; and

WHEREAS: The privacy of elders is compromised and not respected; and

WHEREAS: Many elders must leave their villages in their final days, experiencing isolation, loss of contact with their culture, and lack of access to their traditional foods; and

WHEREAS: Most rural residents cannot afford the high airfares to fly to Anchorage, Fairbanks, or even regional hubs, so families and friends cannot spend time with their elders who must receive long-term care; and

WHEREAS: Providing facilities for the care of our elders is just as vital as the need for a clinic in each community; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN is urged to seek increased funding from the State of Alaska and the U.S. Federal Government to ensure that there are adequate long term care facilities and services throughout Alaska, including in every village.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG REGION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-22

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING A POLICY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SEXUAL ABUSE CRIMES IN ALASKA'S VILLAGES AND REQUESTING EACH VILLAGE TO DEVELOP A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS AND OTHER AGENCIES IN AN EFFORT TO DESIGN TRADITIONAL, CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND COMMUNITY SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS TO EFFECTIVELY COMBAT THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF SUCH CRIMES
- WHEREAS:** A century ago the Native peoples of Alaska lived completely independent lives with little or no outside influences; today many struggle amid the rapid industrialization that has taken place in Alaska and in the recently introduced cash economy where village-based jobs are virtually non-existent; and
- WHEREAS:** This industrialization has caused sudden cultural, economic, social, political and spiritual upheaval, and has resulted in a crisis for many who are caught between the desire to continue their traditional way of life and the pressures exerted on them by the western world; and
- WHEREAS:** Families and communities have been disrupted and, as a result, alcohol use and alcohol-related crimes have increased substantially and have contributed to a disproportionately high rate of homicide, suicide, domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse and neglect among tribal members; and
- WHEREAS:** The tragic consequences of alcohol and drug abuse in rural Southwest Alaska are well known; and
- WHEREAS:** According to a study published in 2008, conducted by the University of Alaska's Justice Center, 986 cases of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors were reported to the Alaska State Troopers in 2003 and 2004; and
- WHEREAS:** Of the total number of cases reported, as an example, almost fifty percent of these occurred in western Alaska (Alaska State Troopers Detachment "C"); and
- WHEREAS:** Existing state and federal laws and programs have not been effective in deterring such crimes; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Villages will not tolerate the existence of such sexual abuse crimes and each member tribal government must partner with the Alaska State Troopers and other agencies to find local solutions at home; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native people traditionally resolved disputes within the tribe and addressed situations promptly by providing culturally relevant solutions and holistic approaches that involve rebuilding traditional and community values and empowering families; and

WHEREAS: Tribal governments are already in place, and are the only government in many villages and can intervene earlier and more effectively, dealing with offenders in their own communities; and

WHEREAS: Even before Native people settled in today's permanent village sites, clans and extended family groups kept the peace within, and dealt with the sometimes difficult decisions that had to be made to protect the health, welfare and safety of the community, the family, and individual members; as an example, Yup'ik men would meet in the qasgiq; (Yup'ik word for community house), to decide matters that might otherwise have divided or destroyed the community from within; communities turned to their Elders for direction; problems were dealt with and resolved internally, so the community and its people could move on with life; and

WHEREAS: Tribal governments provide Native communities with a way to fix problems and resolve disputes from within; and, just as Alaska Tribes had the inherent right to deal with these matters internally in older times, so too do they today; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN support a policy of zero tolerance for sexual abuse crimes in all of Alaska's villages and requests that villages develop a partnership with the Alaska State Troopers and other agencies in an effort to design traditional, culturally relevant and community specific solutions to effectively combat the high incidence of such crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these jointly developed solutions more closely resemble the way decisions have been made for generations in Alaska's Native villages, and focus on making the community whole again through healing, restoration of healthy relationships, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-23

- TITLE: SUPPORTING CREATION OF A STATE FUNDED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE ROAD, MARINE AND AIR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska's Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) is updating the State's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to ensure the plan meets the State's needs through the year 2030 and to ensure it complies with SAFETE-LU; and
- WHEREAS: Federal funds are the primary source for construction and repair of Alaska's highway transportation infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS: State of Alaska highway, marine and air transportation infrastructure is in a financial crisis; and
- WHEREAS: The amount of federal funds available to states has been flat and there are projections that the Highway Trust Fund will not allow for projects in 2009 unless federal taxes are increased; and
- WHEREAS: If these problems are not solved, this crisis will result in major service reductions across the state; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska is one of only two states that does not have a state funded capital transportation program; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska does not have a designated reserve fund for maintenance of Alaska's transportation infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS: New areas within and between communities cannot be opened up without transportation modes (surface, marine and air), but currently there seems to be no system through which to develop these new transportation systems; and
- WHEREAS: The purchasing power of federal funds has declined due to inflation and ever increasing federal requirements and the high cost of construction; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska's transportation infrastructure is aging faster than repairs can be made at present funding levels and Alaska is experiencing declining road conditions such as increased congestion; pot holes and ruts are not being repaired; dust has become a health and safety hazard; and many of the vessels in the Alaska Marine Highway System are approaching the end of their useful lives; and

WHEREAS: Climate change in Alaska is resulting in damage to roads due to permafrost thawing and increased flooding; and

WHEREAS: Poor road conditions and increased congestion lead to higher accident rates; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Highway program funds are not sufficient to meet the needs and expectations of Alaska's citizens. With the projected funds received, the proposed State LRTP #1 priority will be to focus on the National Highway System, leaving insufficient funding for Alaska Highway Systems, local roads and the Alaska Marine Highway Systems; and

WHEREAS: A focus on the National Highway System will disadvantage rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Using state funds will result in less expensive projects being constructed more quickly; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that AFN urges the State of Alaska to develop a state-funded transportation program of \$300 million annually or more that will result in a long-term sustainable state-funded transportation program to address the Alaska Highway System, the unmet needs of local roads, the Alaska Marine Highway System, and air transportation infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new transportation program should include provisions for a Community Block Grant program to address local transportation needs.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-24

TITLE: SUPPORTING INCREASED INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)
FUNDING FOR THE VILLAGE BUILT CLINIC LEASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS: In 1969 the Indian Health Service (IHS) obtained authorization and funding to initiate a Village Built Clinic (VBC) leasing program to meet the need for health facilities in isolated Alaska villages, some of which are as far as 1,300 miles from the nearest regional health centers; and

WHEREAS: The VBC leasing program is available only to village clinics in which a Community Health Aide/ Itinerate Health Aide is responsible for providing primary health care, and lease funds are dedicated to supporting the operation and maintenance expenses of the facility, such as janitorial, electricity, water, sewage disposal, fuel, loan amortization, insurance and repairs; and

WHEREAS: Today over 550 Community Health Aides/Community Health Practitioners (CHA/Ps) are employed by 27 tribal health organizations in 178 rural communities and these CHA/Ps are the patients' first contact within the network of health professionals in the Alaska Tribal Health System; and

WHEREAS: These 550 practitioners provide 270,000 emergency and primary health visits annually to approximately 50,000 Alaska Natives, responding to medical emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year; operating the only health care delivery system of its kind in the United States; and

WHEREAS: The Denali Commission has invested in excess of \$200 million dollars modernizing village clinics throughout Alaska, ensuring that the CHAP program provides services in code-compliant and adequately sized facilities; and

WHEREAS: The annual operating costs to heat and maintain these facilities continue to rise due to the rapidly increasing cost of fuel and electricity; and

WHEREAS: The Village Clinic Lease Program funds have not kept pace with inflation, have never been adequate to provide for annual and preventative maintenance, and according to estimates by the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, are sufficient to cover only 50% of actual operating costs; and

WHEREAS: Through a unique partnership with local village tribal councils and 2nd class cities, village clinics are maintained by local governing bodies, that in turn, have been subsidizing their operation with limited local revenues; and

WHEREAS: The energy crisis threatens the viability of these local governments to continue to provide essential local services, such as water and sewer, let alone maintain facilities that the federal government has a trust duty and obligation to provide; and

WHEREAS: The substantial federal investment in these facilities, and the quality of primary health care in rural Alaska, is threatened by insufficient Village Clinic Lease funds to keep village clinics open, heated, and code compliant; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that Congress and the Indian Health Service is urged to increase the funding for village clinic leases sufficiently to pay for the actual costs of operating village clinics in 2008 dollars, in order to prevent the collapse of the village-based Alaska Native Primary Health Care system that has been the first line of defense in rural health care for the last 40 years.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



CULTURAL

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-25

TITLE: THANKING AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF OUR COUNCILS AND ELDERS IN MAKING FEDERAL, STATE AND CITY ELECTION INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES

WHEREAS: The right to vote in federal, state and city elections is one of the most important rights; and

WHEREAS: The Voting Rights Act of 1975 provided that all election information made available in English should also be made available in Alaska Native languages indigenous to the Regions (Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act); and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has not made all election information (such as ballots, information about the yes or no questions, and information about the candidates) available in Alaska Native languages for the voters who do not speak enough English to understand; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native languages are still widely spoken and used throughout the State of Alaska and even written and taught in many schools; and

WHEREAS: Some of our Alaska Native elders do not understand what they are voting for and many of them are afraid to vote because they fear their vote may hurt their own people; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN hereby supports and endorses the efforts of making federal, state and city election information available in indigenous Alaska Native languages so that all Alaska Native people may understand what they are voting for.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-26

TITLE: REQUESTING THAT FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND/OR FEDERAL REGULATIONS BE ENACTED TO ALLOW ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES AND TRIBAL MEMBERS, VILLAGE CORPORATIONS, REGIONAL FOR-PROFIT AND NON-PROFIT ALASKA NATIVE ENTITIES, TO HAVE A FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL TO PURCHASE NATIVE ALLOTMENTS, IN THAT ORDER OF PRIORITY, WHEN AN ALASKA NATIVE ALLOTMENT IS FOR SALE

WHEREAS: The Dawes Act of February 8, 1887, as amended, allowed American Indians of the United States to select up to 160 acres of land for purposes of keeping traditional lands of their ancestors in Indian ownership; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906 was enacted by Congress for qualified Alaska Natives to select up to 160 acres of lands similar to the requirements of the Dawes Act; and

WHEREAS: A majority of the Alaska Natives who opted to utilize the Alaska Native Allotment Act, selected lands traditionally used by them for subsistence purposes; and

WHEREAS: Section 18 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, repealed the Alaska Native Allotment Act; and

WHEREAS: Due to increased energy related cost of utilities, goods and fuel, more Alaska Natives are wanting to sell their Native Allotments to meet their financial obligations to their families and to businesses; and

WHEREAS: We are concerned that the ownership of Native Allotments by non-Natives would restrict access to subsistence lands by Alaska Natives and their descendants; and

WHEREAS: A Native Allotment loses its trust status when it is sold, even to a Native entity, thus becoming taxable land, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc, that AFN pursue Federal legislation (and/or federal regulations) that allow Alaska Native tribes and tribal members, village corporations, regional for-profit and non-profit Alaska Native entities to have the first right of refusal to purchase such lands, in that order of priority when a Native Allotment is being considered for sale; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges inclusion of legislative language that would preserve the land's trust status and thereby maintain the non-taxability of the Native Allotment when the allotment is sold to a Native Entity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the regional entities develop a process to pool financial resources, along with corporations, tribes and entities, to purchase such lands when they become available in order to retain Native Allotments in Native ownership; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT this issue be a priority for the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, all regional entities, corporations, and tribes so that Native Allotments can forever remain in Native ownership.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: REFER TO AFN BOARD

BOARD ACTION: PASS TO FLOOR OF CONVENTION

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED (INCLUDING TITLE) AND REFERRED TO THE AFN BOARD BY MOTION FROM THE FLOOR



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-27

TITLE: TO AMEND ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT (ANCSA) ON SAND AND GRAVEL PIT RECLAMATION

WHEREAS: Areas which have had material extracted often experience erosion problems; and

WHEREAS: ANCSA lands must be restored to a condition that will be beneficial for generations to come; and

WHEREAS: ANCSA lands which have had material extracted need to be reclaimed to a safe and stable condition.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of AFN that AFN urges Congress to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act ("ANCSA"), 43 U.S.C. §1613(f) to require that material sites on ANCSA lands be reclaimed to a safe and stable condition once the material extraction operations in an area have been inactive for more than one year, terminated due to court order, or abandoned; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all material sites will require reclamation at the end of operations and at a minimum meet all Federal, State and Local regulations, and specifically AS 27.19.020 Reclamation Standards, AS 27.19.030 Reclamation Plan, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Best Management Policies for Gravel Pits, United States Code of Federal Regulations, Federal Clean Water Act (amended 1977) and Federal Water Quality Act (1987). Cut slopes must be sloped to a minimum of 1.5 feet of run for every foot of rise (1.5:1); re-seeding of mineral soils exposed during operations will be performed by utilizing pre-approved native plant species. Shaping of the material site floor shall be in a manner consistent to prevent erosion and pooling of water; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective immediately and the secretary of the corporation shall be and hereby authorized to provide a copy of this resolution to all interested parties as evidence of the Alaska Federation of Natives adoption of this resolution.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA, INC

COMMITTEE ACTION: REFER TO AFN BOARD

BOARD ACTION: PASS TO FLOOR OF THE CONVENTION

CONVENTION ACTION: REFERRED TO THE BOARD BY MOTION FROM THE FLOOR



EDUCATION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08- 28

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COST ADJUSTMENT FACTORS IN EDUCATIONAL FUNDING, AND AN IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF COSTS OF EDUCATION IN RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature enacts legislation to better the quality of life and education for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: Rural School Districts in Alaska experience the least efficient economies of scale, and the widest fluctuations in operational costs; and

WHEREAS: Rural School Districts in Alaska are most dramatically and adversely impacted by the failure of the State to fully fund cost adjustments; and

WHEREAS: Rural School Districts in Alaska are comprised primarily of Alaska Native children; and

WHEREAS: All increases in formula funding will remain inequitable unless the accuracy of the area cost differential for each rural district is addressed periodically; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska State Legislature is urged to fully fund the cost differentials in the educational funding and enact legislation requiring an ongoing and annual review of cost factors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any reviews of the costs associated with education in Alaska's rural communities involve those who are engaged in providing these services, including Board members, administrators and other leaders of Alaska's rural communities.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08- 29

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO CERTIFY HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature enacts legislation to better the quality of life and education for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature enacts legislation to ensure that all Alaskan students have access to a highly qualified teacher; and

WHEREAS: Current Highly Qualified regulations often require a teacher to be highly qualified in each discipline they teach within a subject; and

WHEREAS: Rural school staffing patterns cannot support one teacher for each subject – let alone for each area within a discipline; and

WHEREAS: In schools where one or two teachers must handle the entire secondary program, the additional preparation required to become certified as highly qualified compound the workload of preparing to teach several different subjects; and

WHEREAS: This workload contributes to teacher burnout and turnover in rural schools; and

WHEREAS: Rural schools face significant difficulties in retaining teachers and in differentiating offerings for students in rural schools; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN encourages the Alaska State Legislature to appropriate necessary funding to conduct an interim study to determine alternative pathways for certifying teachers as highly qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT additional outcomes of study should address Alaska’s state accountability plan to allow standard-based teacher certification. This study should include as one of its areas of focus, the need for teachers to be highly qualified in multiple subject areas in small and rural high schools, and should be conducted with participation from rural district personnel.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMNEDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-30

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF ADEQUATE FUNDING OF FACILITY
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE IN RURAL SCHOOL
DISTRICTS

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature enacts legislation to better the quality of life
and education for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The facilities in Rural School Districts serve as the center of our
communities, and are essential to ensuring the quality of life and education
for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: Constructing, maintaining and operating the facilities in Rural School
Districts have a major impact on each District's budget; and

WHEREAS: Fluctuations in enrollment in each school, and variations among the floor
plans of schools in the state, costs of utilities in each community, costs of
maintenance in each community, costs of construction in each community,
and the age of each building in the state are among factors that radically
alter the ability of a statewide formula to equitably support districts in
operating their facilities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual
Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN
encourages the Alaska State Legislature to reimburse actual costs
associated with maintaining and operating each educational facility in the
state.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08- 31

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALASKA'S 3 & 4 YEAR OLD LEARNERS

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature enacts legislation to better the quality of life and education for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: Research clearly and strongly demonstrates the efficacy of educational programming for 3 and 4 year old children; and

WHEREAS: Access to these programs is important for every child in Alaska regardless of location, social status or race; and

WHEREAS: Funding for an early childhood education program would offer early public education opportunities for at-risk children; and

WHEREAS: The children most impacted by the decision to eliminate funding for early childhood education are the least likely to find alternative educational programs; and

WHEREAS: Funding for public early childhood education is no longer available to Alaska's schools and families; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska State Legislature is urged to fully implement a Kindergarten 3 year old to Kindergarten 4 year old program for every Alaskan child of this age group.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08- 32

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature enacts legislation to better the quality of life and education for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The quality of life for all Alaskans is dependent upon the availability of a highly trained workforce in the state; and

WHEREAS: There is a need for enhanced skilled workforce training throughout the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Several areas of the State have set in place vocational training opportunities to expose high school and post secondary students to various skilled career fields; and

WHEREAS: The current means of funding vocational education has failed to provide appropriate and sustainable vocational training opportunities in rural schools across the state; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska State Legislature is urged to enhance and fully fund existing regional vocational training and higher education programs and to provide funding for other such centers at the regional level to meet regional training needs based on employment trends, and to partner with corporations, businesses and private companies in Alaska to fund training programs that meet their needs.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-33

TITLE: ADDRESSING THE PRESERVATION OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES BY BEING INTRODUCED INTO AND TAUGHT IN A DEGREE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL

WHEREAS: A number of Alaska Native languages are becoming extinct in Native cultures; and

WHEREAS: Traditional values, practices and cultural identity needs to be maintained and revived; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native youth are currently seeking college level courses while still in high school; and

WHEREAS: Current educational practices encourage language development at the earliest possible time in early childhood development; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the United States Department of Education and the State of Alaska are urged work in cooperation with Alaska Native entities to continue to preserve Alaska Native languages through the introduction and/or addition of classes, with an emphasis on the Alaska Native culture and tradition, and inclusion as a Degree Program at the University level.

SUBMITTED BY: SETH-DE-YA-AH MINTO CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED, RECONSIDERED,
AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-34

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED AND INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION EQUITY ACT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Education Equity Act funding supports programs for Alaska Native children that are aligned with the cultural and language traditions of Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Education Equity funds are used for culturally responsive teaching and services for Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Education Equity Act funds 164 programs across the state, providing a whole range of services to Alaska Native students – from early childhood education to drop-out prevention; and

WHEREAS: The program was eliminated from the President's FY08 and FY09 DOE budgets on the grounds that it is duplicative of Title I grants, Special Education grants, Indian Education grants, and that some of the grantees have been awarded funds under an earmark process; and

WHEREAS: The existing funding under Title I and for Special Education grants and Indian Education grants are inadequate to meet the needs of Alaska Native students; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN supports the continuation of Alaska Native Education Equity Act funding and increased funding to meet the dire needs of Alaska Native students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN work with the Alaska Native Education Association to strengthen the language of the Alaska Native Education Equity Act and include it in the Reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN and the Alaska Native Education Association work with Congress to ensure continued and increased funding through the Alaska Native Educational Equity Act and its inclusion in the reauthorization of the No Child left Behind Act or its replacement.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-35

TITLE: THE CREATION OF AN EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND FOR STATE OF ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature enacts legislation to better the quality of life and education for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The Association of Alaska School Boards supports the creation and full funding of an Education Endowment Fund to secure stable and full funding for tuition and housing for any graduate of an Alaska high school to attend college at an Alaska institute of higher education; and

WHEREAS: The State Legislature is strongly encouraged by the Association of Alaska School Boards to create and fully fund an Education Endowment to provide full tuition and housing funds for any graduate of an Alaska high school to attend college at an Alaska institute of higher education; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. encourages the Alaska State Legislature to create and fully fund an Alaska Education Endowment Fund.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-36

- TITLE: INCREASED FORMULA FUNDING AND REVIEW OF ISERS' COSTS ADJUSTMENTS FOR ALASKA SCHOOLS K-12
- WHEREAS: The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) supports immediate and full funding of all cost adjustment factors contained in the Alaska State sponsored Institute of Social Economic Research Study; and,
- WHEREAS: The AASB review of recent inflation in rural communities of Alaska calls for the Alaska State Legislature to conduct an immediate review of Cost Factors to insure their accuracy; and
- WHEREAS: Appropriating adequate funding for education is a State Legislative responsibility; and
- WHEREAS: The primary responsibility for Alaska School Boards is the allocation of state education funding programs, unlike many school boards throughout the nation Alaska School Boards do not have fiscal autonomy; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska School Boards know from past legislative appropriations experience, full funding by state policy-makers does not equate to adequate funding; and
- WHEREAS: The future success of the State of Alaska in meeting the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) will require an investment in people, processes, and accountability measures; and
- WHEREAS: The AASB is committed to ensuring the success of their full and meaningful participation; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN strongly encourages the Alaska State Legislature to increase formula funding programs at full funding levels as recommended by ISERS' Cost Adjustments Study to include all costs, including those associated with school board members, administrators and business managers in Alaska's rural communities.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-37

TITLE: LONG TERM FUNDING WITH REGARD TO FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED FROM THE ALASKA EDUCATION FUNDING TASK FORCE THAT EQUITABLY DEAL WITH ALASKA'S SCHOOLS

WHEREAS: State of Alaska education funding has been a serious problem in Alaska for many years; and

WHEREAS: The largest budget item in boroughs and/or First Class cities is education; and

WHEREAS: A task force has been created by the Governor to address the many issues involved in school funding; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives Delegates wish to support the findings and recommendations that equitably serve all of Alaska's school districts to include:

1. Increased funding for intensive-needs students;
2. Increase in Based Student Allocation (BSA);
3. Recalibration of pupil transportation funding;
4. Appropriation of school funding by the 60th day of session;
5. Examination of vocational technical demands;
6. Evaluation of local financial effort requirements; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Education Funding Task Force has done an exemplary job of discussing, debating and forwarding recommendations to the Governor, as asked; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that the Alaska Education Funding Task Force include membership of school board members, administrators and business managers in Alaska's rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature is urged to support long-term funding with regards to findings and recommendations forwarded from the Alaska Education Task Force that equitably deal with Alaska's schools.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ECONOMIC

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-38

TITLE: SUPPORTING AFN EFFORTS TO LIFT FREEZE ON THE ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT LOCAL HIRE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS: Congress enacted the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1971 (ANILCA), and in that Act provided local hire authority to the Department of Interior, including the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS: Specifically, ANILCA, section 1308 of Public Law 98-487 authorizes the Department of Interior Bureau, including the National Park Service to hire individuals living or working in or near conservation units in Alaska, recognizing the unique knowledge and expertise of local persons (particularly Alaska Native residents with traditional ecological knowledge); “without regard to (1) any provisions of the civil service laws or under which require minimum periods of formal training or experience; (2) any such provisions of an employment preference to any other class of applicant in such selection, and; (3) any numerical limitation on personnel otherwise applicable.” (This hiring authority has been called the Alaska Local Hire Program by the DOI); and

WHEREAS: Tribal citizens benefit from this authority under law, and the Department of the Interior benefits from this authority under law, by tapping into the special knowledge, expertise, history, and cultural knowledge of local residents; and

WHEREAS: Tribal citizens have been negatively impacted because the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has frozen the authority to exercise a local hire preference; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., authorizes AFN to work aggressively with the National Park Service and Tribes to lift the freeze and to allow persons hired under the Alaska Local Hire Program to be considered on equal footing with other Interior Department employees when it comes to competitive hire and advancement.

SUBMITTED BY: SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-39

TITLE: SUPPORTING EXPANDED STATE FERRY SERVICES IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Transportation has cut services of the state ferry Tustumena on the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands to once a month, which has had a serious impact on transportation access for the Bristol Bay Region villages of Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville, Ivanof Bay, and Port Heiden; and

WHEREAS: People who depend upon the Tustumena for affordable transportation to Kodiak, Homer, Anchorage, and other communities on the road system do not have access or even a choice to get reservations on the once-a-month trips, which begin in May, skip September, and end in October, because the reservations are already full; and

WHEREAS: The services provided to Southeast Alaska's rural communities by the Alaska Marine Highway System have also been significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS: Even under the prior twice-a-month sailings in 2007, it was difficult to book space for passenger berths or vehicles, and since the reservations opened last spring for the Tustumena's 2008 sailings there has been no space available; some summer residents were not able to return to the villages because the ferry reservations were full; and

WHEREAS: The lack of affordable transportation is forcing village residents to either move out or do without routine activity such as medical and dental visits, educational field trips for school children, grocery shopping and visiting family; and

WHEREAS: If current transportation and energy cost trends continue, some villages are likely to die out, rendering unsustainable all the capital infrastructure investments that have been made in these villages such as boat harbors, docks, schools, water, sewer, and roads; and

WHEREAS: Given the high cost of air transportation, the ferry system should be playing a larger role in meeting the routine transportation needs of the communities on the Alaska Peninsula, the Aleutians, and elsewhere in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Western and Northern coastal communities are increasing in population, have some of the highest costs of living in the State of Alaska, yet, have never had ferry service; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges Governor Sarah Palin, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and the Alaska State Legislature to restore and expand state ferry services in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, at a minimum, to restore ferry services to the 2007 level to all coastal and riverine communities, including the Alaska Peninsula, the Aleutian Islands and Southeast Alaska; and to expand the ferry system to Western and Northern Alaskan communities.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-40

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF STATUTORY AND/OR REGULATORY CHANGES IN STATE AND FEDERAL FISH AND GAME LAWS SO THAT ITEMS ESSENTIAL TO DAILY LIFE IN OUR VILLAGES ARE NOT CONFISCATED WHEN A PERSON RECEIVES A CITATION FOR A REGULATORY INFRACTION

WHEREAS: Our tribal members utilize boats, outboard motors, snowmobiles, nets, firearms, etc. in our daily lives to meet our transportation and subsistence needs; and

WHEREAS: Many of our tribal members saved for many years to gather the resources to buy these items; and

WHEREAS: When judicial system and law enforcement personnel confiscate these items, they essentially cripple a person from providing for his family and the community; and

WHEREAS: Snow machines and boats are not only used for hunting, but for transportation, collecting firewood, harvesting non-game flora and fauna, and are essential for daily life in the villages; and

WHEREAS: Firearms are not only for the taking of a single species, but many other species to feed our families; and

WHEREAS: The confiscation of any of any of these items results in a dire need for resources to feed our families; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN encourages the Alaska State legislature, the Congress and the appropriate agencies review and amend their fish and game laws and regulations to provide that essential items needed to meet transportation and subsistence needs in our villages will not be confiscated when an individual receives a citation for a regulatory infraction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if items which are used for transportation and subsistence needs are seized, members of the family of the person from whom the items were seized be provided the opportunity to reclaim the

items upon sworn affidavit provided to the agency in possession, that the items are vital to meet the continuing transportation and subsistence needs of the family.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: DEFER TO AFN BOARD
BY MOTION ON FLOOR



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-41

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE STATE ENERGY LEGISLATION

WHEREAS: The high cost of energy in rural Alaska is having a severe detrimental effect upon the people who live there; residents of rural Alaska consume roughly 15 percent less energy than urban residents yet they pay upwards of three times more for it, even with Power Cost Equalization (PCE); and

WHEREAS: The unprecedented rise in the price of fuel, and the effect it has had on the cost of everything else, is forcing more and more rural resident to leave their homes in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The out-migration of rural residents is detrimental to the continued vitality of our rural communities and the preservation of our culture and way of life; and

WHEREAS: In August 2008 Governor Palin called a special session to address the high cost of energy, and the legislature enacted a one-year program by which the state paid a \$1200 per capita “rebate” to Alaskans via the permanent fund dividend program, increased the cost ceiling for PCE, increased the maximum loan amount from the Bulk Fuel Loan program, and suspended the state motor fuel tax; and

WHEREAS: During the special session, the main alternative proposal was a more comprehensive Senate bill introduced by Senator Lyman Hoffman which would have created a \$500 per capita energy rebate, provided a subsidy of the cost of home winter heating fuel above \$3.00 per gallon, up to a total of 850 gallons, with similar subsidies for other types of home heating; and would have expanded and increased grant programs for renewable energy, as well as expanded the PCE program and the grant program for small power projects for utilities; and

WHEREAS: While providing welcomed short-term help, the energy legislation that passed in 2008 does not address structural problems or long-term needs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska State Legislature is urged to use the Senate’s version of energy legislation in the 2008 special session (SB 4002 C) as the starting point for enacting comprehensive energy legislation in 2009, which will provide affordable and sustainable energy for all Alaskans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following measures should be considered and included as part of comprehensive energy legislation:

1. Full funding of the PCE program and expansion of PCE and AFHC energy efficiency weatherization services to include all public facilities and buildings, elderly residential care facilities, health care facilities, schools, non-profits, small businesses, and other entities in the villages that do not meet the current eligibility requirements;
2. A sizeable investment in alternative energy projects and conservation, including a \$20 billion dollar Alternative Energy Capitalization Program;
3. The lowering of the PCE threshold and raising the ceiling to \$1.15 for a total of 500 kwh per month per household;
4. Family fuel subsidies or rebates determined by the actual costs of a base amount of fuel;
5. Reduction or restructuring of debt for rural utilities;
6. Expansion of the Home Heating Assistance Program to cover fuel costs in excess of \$3.00 per gallon or gas equivalent, not to exceed 900 gallons of heating oil or gas equivalent between September and March to each qualified recipient;
7. Creation of and funding for a Regional Alternative Energy Planning Program for rural Alaska;
8. Expansion and support of the bulk fuel loan program;
9. Creation and funding for a Circuit Rider Rural Energy Auditor Program; and
10. Elimination of the state motor fuel tax.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
KONIAG/KANA
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-42

TITLE: TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ALASKA NATIVES AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS, WHICH CAN HELP DEVELOP ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES OF MUTUAL BENEFIT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALASKA'S NATURAL GAS

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives living in rural Alaska pay some of the highest energy prices in the country; and

WHEREAS: The dramatic increase in the cost of fuel in rural Alaska is having a devastating impact on the household and community resources; and

WHEREAS: The increased cost of fuel is threatening the economic viability of rural families and communities and drastically increasing the cost of living in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The high cost of heating fuel and gas in Alaska's rural and off-road communities is causing an unprecedented urban migration from rural communities; and

WHEREAS: Dependency on diesel within Alaska native villages exposes rural Alaskan families to an unacceptable financial hardship and adverse environmental impact; and

WHEREAS: The Constitution of the State of Alaska states in Article VII, Sec. 2, that the legislature shall provide for the utilization, development and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State for the maximum benefit of all its people; including those in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Legislature through its passage of AGIA, created a framework under which a gasline line / liquid natural gas (LNG) project can be developed ; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native corporations, as the largest private land owners in the State of Alaska, through their corporations should be encouraged to participate directly in gas project related infrastructure ownership and maximize operational opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute and the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum commissioned a comprehensive analysis in April 2007 offering great promise for the Native Hawaiian community and all of Hawai'i from the importation of natural gas from Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Importing Alaska natural gas could reduce oil's share of the primary energy mix in Hawai'i by approximately 20%; and

WHEREAS: Savings to be gained from using Alaska natural gas in Hawai'i could yield potential annual fuel savings to consumers in the tens of millions of dollars as the price of natural gas to power plants would be less than the price forecasted for the low sulfur fuel oil it will replace; and

WHEREAS: Natural gas not needed for use in Alaska could be transported in LNG form by ships to Hawai'i, the U.S. West Coast and world markets; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing the joint benefits to Hawaiians and Alaska Natives, the OHA Board of Trustees recently expressed interest in Hawai'i being a delivery point for natural gas from Valdez; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the AFN support the continue advancement of a gasline project and/or the maximum opportunity for gas use in rural Alaska and to markets outside of Alaska including Hawaii; and encourage the formation of partnerships between Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians which can help develop economic opportunities of mutual benefit of the development of Alaska's natural gas.

SUBMITTED BY: CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION BOARD

COMMITTEE ACTION: REFER TO AFN BOARD

BOARD ACTION: PASS TO FLOOR OF CONVENTION

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ANCSA/TRIBAL

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-43

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF MAKING SECTION 646 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 A PERMANENT PART OF SUCH CODE

WHEREAS: Section 646 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 provides a comprehensive set of rules pertaining to the taxation of Alaska Native Settlement Trusts, the beneficiaries of such trusts, the Alaska Native corporations that establish such trusts, and the shareholders of such corporations; and

WHEREAS: Section 646 has provided a powerful incentive to the establishment and continuation of Alaska Native settlement trusts to provide for the benefit of Alaska Natives, and thus, has been extremely beneficial to the Native community; and

WHEREAS: The scheduled expiration of section 646 is December 31, 2010, and such scheduled expiration date has had a chilling effect on the creation of new Alaska Native settlement trusts; and

WHEREAS: Expiration of section 646 would seriously impair the value of settlement trusts as a means to promoting the health, education and welfare of Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Section 646 should become a permanent provision of the United States Internal Revenue Code; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to authorize the extension of section 646 past its scheduled expiration on December 31, 2010, and to make section 646 a permanent provision of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

SUBMITTED BY: CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION; TYONEK NATIVE CORPORATION; SHEE ATIKA, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-44

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TAX CREDIT INCENTIVES FOR VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION DONATIONS FOR ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS (ANC'S)
- WHEREAS:** Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") provides U.S. private landowners with a tax credit deduction for charitable contributions of property, including the contribution of qualified conservation easements to protect critical wildlife habitats; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2006, Congress created a temporary rule to further encourage all private landowners, except ANC's, to make contributions of qualified conservation easements, including enhanced tax incentive provisions allowing private landowners the deduction of 50 percent of the value of conservation easements in the case of individuals, partnership or LLC landowners, and 100 percent of the value of conservation easements in the case of qualified agricultural "subsistence" producers; and
- WHEREAS:** These important tax incentives were not made available to ANC's, which are Federally chartered as C corporations for tax purposes under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, because the legislative language did not consider Alaska Native Corporations as eligible landowners equal with other U.S. landowners in qualifying for the 50 percent deduction, nor with sufficient gross income from the trade or business of agricultural (subsistence) production to be eligible for the 100 percent deduction; and
- WHEREAS:** Under current law, ANC's do not have equal access to tax incentives provided to other U.S. private landowners, but rather have very limited tax incentives to permanently protect their properties containing important wildlife, fish and other habitats through the donation of qualified conservation easements; and
- WHEREAS:** Support of a legislative proposal to extend the 2006 tax incentives equally to all Alaska Native Corporations, is encouraged which is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A; and
- WHEREAS:** These important tax incentives made available to other U.S. private landowners, should be equally available to assist all Alaska Native Corporations to protect wildlife, fish and other habitats that are significant to the Corporations and their shareholders; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to authorize the extension of the enhanced tax incentives for voluntary conservation donations available under IRC Section 170 to Alaska Native Corporations.

SUBMITTED BY: TYONEK NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08- 45

TITLE: NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE AND GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

WHEREAS: The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC), through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is responsible for the management of groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, and Bering Sea. The NMFS is the responsible Federal Agency in decision making, and therefore is also the Federal Agency responsible for Tribal Consultation; and

WHEREAS: The NMFS is required by Executive Memorandum of April 29, 1994, U.S. Department of Commerce American Indian and Alaska Native Policy (1995), and Executive Order 13175 (2000) to consult with Federally Recognized Tribal Governments; and

WHEREAS: All Federal agencies are mandated to respect tribal self-government and sovereignty, honor tribal treaty and other rights, and to meet the responsibilities that arise from the unique legal relationship between the Federal Government and federally recognized tribal governments; and

WHEREAS: NMFS and the NPFMC develop and carry out actions that uniquely and significantly affect federally recognized tribal governments; and

WHEREAS: The NMFS must develop an accountable tribal consultation process and protocols, as mandated by the federal government, to ensure input from federally recognized tribal officials in the development of regulatory policies; and

WHEREAS: It is widely recognized that the mailing of form letters to tribes is step one of many, in the consultation process and does not constitute government-to-government consultation; and

WHEREAS: Declines in Western Alaska salmon returns have led to restrictions on subsistence fishing and to the loss of food security provided by subsistence activities; and

WHEREAS: Bycatch of salmon by the fishing industry reached all-time highs during the 2007 fishing season with over 130,000 Chinook and 99,000 chum caught; and

WHEREAS: Decisions made by NMFS in regards to salmon bycatch by the fishing industry require tribal consultation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN requests that the federal government instruct the NMFS to fulfill their legally mandated requirement to develop and institute a tribal consultation process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests that consultation begin immediately between NMFS and any and all tribes affected by the Salmon Bycatch Management EIS.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08-46

TITLE: STATE TRIBAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS: In Alaska there are currently 231 federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS: The tribes provide numerous services to their tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS: The federal government has mandated that their departments and agencies consult with tribes on a government-to-government basis; and

WHEREAS: Under a prior administration, the State of Alaska has recognized tribes as sovereigns; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN requests the State of Alaska to establish a framework or a Tribal Affairs Department to effectively consult and work with all Alaska Tribal Governments.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG REGION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2008 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 08- 47

TITLE: REQUEST FOR STATE LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF “STATE” TO INCLUDE “INDIAN TRIBE” IN TITLE 25, CHAPTER 25, ALSO KNOWN AS THE UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT (UIFSA)

WHEREAS: Along with the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, Congress also passed the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) and required all states to enact this uniform Act in order to increase cooperation between the states and decrease the ability of child support obligors from hiding out from their obligations by moving to a new state; and

WHEREAS: During the enactment of Alaska State law, the Alaska State Legislature chose to leave out entirely the inclusion of “Indian tribe” in the definition of a “state “; and

WHEREAS: Congress adopted UIFSA in 1996 to recognize that in international relations the concept of reciprocity is crucial to acceptance of child support orders by other nations, and in Alaska federally-recognized tribes with qualified, established tribal courts have a right to have their tribal court orders related to Indian child support recognized by the State of Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2008 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature is requested to amend the current state law known as the UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT, Article 01. GENERAL PROVISIONS Sec. 25.25.101. Definitions, as follows:

Article 01. GENERAL PROVISIONS Sec. 25.25.101. Definitions.

In this chapter, ... (19) “state” means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; the term “state” includes:

(A) an Indian tribe; and

(B) a foreign jurisdiction that has enacted a law or established procedures for issuance and enforcement of support orders that are substantially similar to the procedures under this chapter or under the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act or the Revised Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act.

SUBMITTED BY: CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA
INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED

