

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

OCTOBER 22, 2011



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SPECIAL RECOGNITION



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11- 01

TITLE: RECOGNITION OF THE RURAL HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

WHEREAS: In 1989, the leaders of the Alaska Federation of Natives led, through a call to action, the charge to make positive social change to develop a behavioral health education program that was grounded in Alaska Native cultures combined with best practice of Western treatment methods; and,

WHEREAS: A thirteen member council, made up of representatives and elders from the regional health corporations worked for two years to develop an educational delivery model that would allow rural Alaskans an opportunity to gain an education in behavioral health so that they could work effectively in their own communities; and,

WHEREAS: The Rural Human Services Program represents a successful collaboration between the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, rural mental health centers, and a variety of Alaska Native health corporations; and,

WHEREAS: Other educational programs within the University, including the human services associates degree program, the bachelor of social work cohort program, and the PhD in psychology with an emphasis on rural and indigenous psychology, have followed in the footsteps of the Rural Human Services program by including an elder instructor in each of the course offered within the program; and,

WHEREAS: Over 300 individuals have received their certificates from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Rural Human Services since the program's implementation and many have then continued a journey of higher education in pursuit of associates degrees in human services, bachelor of arts degrees in social work, and even masters degrees in psychology; and,

WHEREAS: The Rural Human Services program has received the following awards and recognition: 1994 award for excellence and innovation from the National Association for Rural Mental Health Directors; 1994 recognition as a model program in the national counselor training and mental health news alert; 1995 recognition as a model program by National Association for Rural Mental Health; 2005 recognition as an effective Behavioral Health Interventions for Children, Adolescents, and Families of Color by the First Nations Behavioral Health Association; 2006 recognition as an Innovative and Exceptional Practice in Child and Adolescents Workforce Education, Annapolis Coalition on Behavioral Health Workforce Education; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the AFN Board of Directors recognizes the Rural Human Services Program for its exceptional delivery of quality education to rural Alaskans and others working with Alaska Native peoples in the field of behavioral health.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



AFN BOARD RESOLUTIONS



ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-02

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE STATE OF ALASKA'S INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE OF AMENDMENTS TO ALASKA'S STATUTES TO ALLOCATE TWO (2) VOTING SEATS ON THE STATE FISHERIES BOARD AND TWO (2) VOTING SEATS ON THE STATE GAME BOARD TO BE FILLED BY PEOPLE RESIDING IN VILLAGES WHO ARE ACTIVE SUBSISTENCE USERS
- WHEREAS:** Thousands of individuals and families in rural Alaska village communities have a vested interest in, and are dependent on, the success of the state's diverse wildlife and fisheries; and,
- WHEREAS:** Village residents have participated in traditional harvesting of Alaska's wildlife and fisheries for millennia; and,
- WHEREAS:** Through both State of Alaska Board of Fisheries and Board of Game, the state provides management, oversight, regulatory control, and policy development affecting the state's game and fisheries resources; and,
- WHEREAS:** The composition of the two boards is dominated by urban residents and/or commercial industry voices that do not adequately represent or advocate for the subsistence needs of Alaska's rural and village peoples; and,
- WHEREAS:** The continually rising costs of energy, fuel, and groceries in rural Alaska have placed an even greater focus on the availability of subsistence resources for rural residents; and,
- WHEREAS:** Village residents and active subsistence users need to be engaged in the management of Alaska's game and fish stocks, for it is on those stocks and ecosystems that the people depend on for food, cultural heritage, and economic livelihood; and,
- WHEREAS:** Establishing village and subsistence designated voting seats filled by village representatives would help ensure fair allocation of the game and fish resources and help resolve potential conflicts; and,
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives, collectively, own 44 million acres of land under the jurisdiction of the State of Alaska's Board of Game and Board of Fisheries; and,
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska, including Alaska Native land has 147 million acres of land and water under their jurisdiction for fish and game management; and,
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives own 30 percent of state managed lands; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN supports the State of Alaska's introduction and passage of amendments to Alaska Statute 16.05.221 to allocate two (2) voting seats on the state fisheries board and two (2) voting seats on the state game board to be filled by people residing in villages who are active subsistence users.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-03

TITLE: ACTION FOR PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS BY PREVENTING TOXIC EXPOSURES THROUGH CHEMICALS POLICY REFORM

WHEREAS: In 2000, the Alaska Federation of Natives passed Resolution 00-44 in support of the elimination of persistent pollutants that threaten our health and the health of future generations; and

WHEREAS: In 2002, the Youth and Elders Conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives passed Resolution EY-17 in support of the elimination of persistent pollutants that threaten our health and the health of future generations; and

WHEREAS: Toxic exposures continue to threaten our health due to the outdated and ineffective federal law of 1976—the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that was intended to enable chemicals both before and after they enter commerce; and

WHEREAS: Today there are more than 80,000 chemicals on the market, which have never been fully assessed for toxic impacts on human health and the environment, and TSCA is failing to serve as an effective vehicle for the public, industry, or government to assess the hazards of chemicals in commerce or control those of greatest health concern; and

WHEREAS: Many of these chemicals ultimately found in toys, everyday consumer goods, or industrial products are suspected or known to be hazardous to human biology and ecological systems; and

WHEREAS: Scientific studies, including those by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevent, demonstrate that hundreds of these same chemicals are being found to be accumulating in human tissues, including breast milk and the cord blood of infants, even though these chemicals have never been produced in the Arctic; and

WHEREAS: Scientific evidence shows that environmental contaminants are linked to a wide array of adverse health effects including cancer, diabetes, learning and intellectual disabilities, asthma, reproductive and developmental damage, birth defects and other serious diseases; and

WHEREAS: Research has demonstrated that Alaska Native and Native American populations are at higher health risk from certain substances that are toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulate in the environment, the food web, and in the human body; and

WHEREAS: Studies show that developing children, youth, elders, and those with chronic illnesses are particularly vulnerable to health effects caused by exposure to persistent and toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives is concerned about the elevated impact and greater health risks to Alaska Native and Native American Peoples due to our reliance on traditional, subsistence foods as an integral part of our culture; and,

WHEREAS: The U.S. federal government to date has not acted to reform the failing U.S. chemical regulatory system; and

WHEREAS: Policymakers concerned about Alaska have the unique opportunity to correct long-standing chemicals policy weaknesses and implement a modern, comprehensive approach to chemicals policy that better protects the public from exposures to toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives is a non-profit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska. The AFN Convention is the largest gathering on an annual basis with attendance in the thousands; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN urges the Alaska State Administration to make Alaska a leader among states in innovation and education in the area of safer chemical policy reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Alaska State Legislature support legislation that would phase out persistent bio-accumulative chemicals and/or those linked to birth defects, cancer, genetic harm, endocrine disorders, immune and neurological damage and use safer alternatives when available; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Alaska Senators and Representative to the U.S. Congress take leadership on chemicals policy reform and use the full power of their offices to urge Congress to transform the 35-year old law, Toxic Substances Control Act, by passing the Safe Chemicals Act of 2011.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-04

TITLE: ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives supports programs that contribute to the economic, social and cultural well being of the residents of rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) has provided an important means to balance economic development and protection of coastal resources and uses for 34 years; and

WHEREAS: The ACMP has proven to be one of the most important tools to minimize impacts to subsistence uses and resources; and

WHEREAS: The ACMP has been an important instrument to minimize adverse impacts from development projects through the incorporation of local knowledge; and

WHEREAS: Through the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, the ACMP provided the State of Alaska and its coastal districts a unique opportunity to influence federal decisions; and

WHEREAS: The ACMP terminated on July 1, 2011, despite a consensus on most issues in legislation that would have extended the sunset date of the program; and

WHEREAS: Alaska is the only coastal state without a coastal management program; and

WHEREAS: Alaska has over a third of the entire tidal shoreline in the United States, two oceans and more federal land and waters than any other state; and

WHEREAS: Representatives of Alaska's coastal communities filed a ballot initiative application with the Lieutenant Governor on October 7, 2011 to reinstate the ACMP; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that the AFN supports reestablishment of the ACMP, either through a ballot initiative or legislation, that would establish a coastal policy board, bring back air and water quality issues into ACMP project consistency reviews, and allow meaningful participation by local coastal districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to Governor Parnell and Alaska State legislators encouraging them to support reinstatement of the state's coastal management program.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-05

TITLE: SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL REFORM

WHEREAS: The Indigenous peoples of Alaska are distinct people with distinct cultures and traditional knowledge; and,

WHEREAS: There exists a need for Tribal schools to meet the cultural and academic needs of our children, who are impacted by a greater “drop-out” rate than other students in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: Today’s K-12 educational system as offered through our state and local government is not adequate for nor does it respond to the cultural needs of our Native students; and,

WHEREAS: Our state and local government have established a monopoly in that to access free K-12 education one must go to a government school; and,

WHEREAS: Creative, educational opportunities can meet the educational, cultural, and social needs of our Native children; and,

WHEREAS: Pending legislation (House Bill 145, Senate Bill 106, and HJR 16, SJR 9) will permit parental choice and innovations; and,

WHEREAS: HJR 16 and SJR 9, if enacted, would place an amendment to the Constitution on the ballot in the next general election that if passed would amend Art. VII, Sec. 1 of the State Constitution to delete language that prohibits the expenditure of public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution, and add language to Art. IX, section 6 which currently says no public money can be used, except for a public purpose, to say that nothing in that section shall prevent payment from public funds for the direct educational benefit of students as provided by law; and,

WHEREAS: HB 145 and SB 106, would establish a Parental Choice Scholarship Program, whereby public funding could be used to pay for the cost of K-12 education at a public or private school selected by the parent or legal guardian. The school of choice would receive the amount of funding the school district in which the student resides would have received. The legislation sets scholarship amount and eligibility, accountability and enrollment standards for a participating school and the duties of school districts. Public, private, correspondence schools will all compete for the funding that the legislature sends to school districts each year; and,

WHEREAS: The legislation allows Native parents flexibility to start new schools, or select other schools or methods designed to best respond to their children's need and government money follows; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation Natives, Inc, endorses the proposed K-12 parental choice legislation.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-06

TITLE: SUPPORT STATE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports one out of every eight Alaska families struggles to put food on the table; and,

WHEREAS: Hunger in America 2010 cites 74,000 Alaskans seek food assistance each year and 43% of households visiting food pantries in Alaska have a child under the age of 18; and,

WHEREAS: Inadequate nutrition affects the cognitive and behavioral development of children and is associated with grade repetition, absenteeism, tardiness, anxiety, aggression, poor test scores, psychosocial dysfunction and difficulty with social interaction among 6 to 12 year old children; and,

WHEREAS: Insufficient nutrition puts children at risk for illness and weakens their immune system, making them 90% more likely to be in fair or poor health than children with adequate nutrition; and,

WHEREAS: The USDA lunch and breakfast programs provide a base level of support for nutrition to underprivileged children in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: Alaskan schools that participate in the USDA School Lunch and Breakfast Programs increasingly struggle with the costs associated for providing the basic nutrition to students; and,

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 3 will provide the needed financial support from the State to strengthen and expand the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs in Alaska, so that all eligible children at all schools throughout the state may benefit; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN strongly endorses the passage of Senate Bill 3 by the Alaska State Legislature.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11- 07

TITLE: SUPPORTING REPEAL OF SECTION 4(b) OF THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT (ANCSA) THAT EXTINGUISHED ABORIGINAL HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS, AND AMENDMENTS TO TITLE VIII OF ANILCA TO RECOGNIZE AND PROTECT NATIVE HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS: When neither the Secretary nor the State of Alaska took adequate steps to protect and provide for Native hunting and fishing needs, Alaska Natives returned to Congress seeking comprehensive protections for their way of life; and

WHEREAS: In 1980, Congress enacted Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which established a priority for rural resident subsistence users on federal lands and reserved navigable waters, but did not provide explicit protection of Alaska Native subsistence uses, and

WHEREAS: The glaring failure of Congress to protect Native hunting, fishing and gathering rights was a violation of International law; and

WHEREAS: The United States has declared its support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, article 38 of which provides that States shall take appropriate measures, including legislation, to achieve the ends of the Declaration; and

WHEREAS: Article 20(1) of the UN Declaration provides that “Indigenous peoples have the right . . . to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities,” and

WHEREAS: It is important that the United States honor the UN Declaration’s guarantee that Indigenous Peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which will affect their rights. This includes the obligations to “consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous Peoples concerned,” and to obtain their “free, prior and informed consent,” to legislative and administrative decisions that may affect them; and

WHEREAS: ANILCA’s scheme envisioned state implementation of the federal priority on all lands and waters in Alaska through a state law implementing the rural priority. That system operated for a mere seven years before the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that the State Constitution precluded State participation in the cooperative federalism program. After initial efforts to amend the State Constitutional to comply with the ANILCA compromise, the State set about to undermine the federal management system through litigation and by gutting its own subsistence law applicable to state and private lands; and,

WHEREAS: At the urging of the Native community, Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, initiated a comprehensive review of the federal subsistence management program in October 2009; and,

WHEREAS: AFN and the entire Native community devoted substantial resources to the review. AFN urged the Secretary to consider options that reach back to Congress’s original expectation that Alaska Native hunting, fishing and gathering rights be protection, rather than simply defending a system that no longer serves its intended function. AFN recommended that the Obama Administration ask Congress to replace the rural preference with a priority for Alaska Natives on all lands and waters in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: At the conclusion of the Secretarial review in August 2010, it was clear that few meaningful changes would be made and the recommendations failed to prompt any attention from Congress. In light of that reality, it is time to revisit congressional alternatives if we are to avoid remaining mired in the status quo; and,

WHEREAS: Congress has the authority to enact legislation, based on the supremacy clause and on its plenary authority to regulate Indian affairs that would provide a Native subsistence preference on all lands and waters in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: The United States of America ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

WHEREAS: Article 1. Section 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights state in no case may a person be deprived of their own means of subsistence; and,

WHEREAS: The indigenous people of Alaska are distinct peoples and members of the human race; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN pursue the repeal of Section 4(b) of ANCSA, which extinguished aboriginal hunting and fishing rights, and amendments to Title VIII of ANILCA that will provide a preference to Alaska Native subsistence uses on all lands and waters in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all options for resolving the subsistence impasse in Alaska be evaluated in light of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People or the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of Indigenous People and the United States' trust responsibility to Alaska Natives; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that United States of America honors its international obligation to provide for subsistence for the indigenous people of the United States as stated in the Indigenous Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 11-08

TITLE: RECOMMENDATIONS ON H.R. 2714 TO AMEND THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1972

WHEREAS: The proposed legislation introduced by Representative Don Young to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the transport, purchase, and sale of pelts of, and handicrafts, garments and art produced from Southcentral and Southeast Alaska northern sea otters that are taken for subsistence; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives supports the principle of maximum sustained yield harvests; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes that sea otter resources can contribute to the economic well-being of Alaska Native hunters, artists, craftspeople and Alaska Native-owned small businesses, and communities through the harvest and sale of traditional and contemporary handicrafts, garments and art and is altered significantly; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives believes that co-management regimes that allow tribes and other Alaska Native organizations to manage resources benefits both the resource population and tribal members; and

WHEREAS: While Alaska Natives have a very strong stake in enforcement that advances the goals of sustainable management and sustainable economies, Alaska Natives have been subjected to overzealous law enforcement and entrapment practices by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives offers its support of H.R. 2714 with the following amendments:

- The legislation should state that the Native exemption will be maintained;
- The legislation should state that the Native exemption will not be impacted;
- The legislation will provide for co-management that would allow tribes or their regionally designated Alaska Native organization to make determinations of eligibility of tribal members to participate in subsistence harvests; the production of traditional and contemporary handicrafts and art; sustainable management and enforcement priorities and hunting methods;

- The legislation should provide for Listening Sessions with Marine Mammal Organizations as well as consultations with federally recognized tribes;
- The legislation should not provide for the sale of pelts to non-natives;
- The legislation includes all Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Regulated Species; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives calls for a review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service overzealous law enforcement and entrapment practices and its greater allocation of enforcement funds over other budgets that can provide greater benefits for the resources.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-09

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF DENALI KIDCARE

WHEREAS: Early intervention and preventative medical care greatly increases a child's lifetime health; and,

WHEREAS: Preventative care has shown to yield substantial savings to state, public and private sector hospital emergency rooms due to less frequent visits to emergency rooms by uninsured children for non-emergency treatment; and,

WHEREAS: Uninsured children are five times more likely not to have a regular physician as those who are insured, and four times more likely to utilize emergency rooms resulting in higher costs; and,

WHEREAS: Denali KidCare is an enhanced Medicaid State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for pregnant women and children in the United States. This program receives up to 70% federal matching funds; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska is one of the nation's wealthiest states and is only one of four states, which funds its SCHIP program below 200% Federal Poverty Level; and,

WHEREAS: The requested 200% of the Federal Poverty Level means that those families of four making under \$44,000 a year could afford to attend to basic health and preventative care needs; and,

WHEREAS: Denali KidCare serves an estimated 10,000 Alaskan children and remains one of the least costly medical assistance programs in the state; and,

WHEREAS: The decrease from 200% to 175% cost the state \$1.8 million in federal matching Medicaid reimbursement for Fiscal Year 2011, meanwhile needy pregnant women and children go uninsured and untreated except in emergencies; and,

WHEREAS: SB 5 will make health insurance more accessible to approximately 1,300 children and 200 pregnant women who are now currently uninsured in Alaska; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Native, Inc., that AFN requests the Alaska State Legislature to pass SB 5 immediately and to restore the qualifying income eligibility standard from 175% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level for Denali KidCare, the level, at which, the program first began in Alaska in 1997; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls on Governor Parnell sign the bill in to law upon receiving it on his desk.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-10

TITLE: ENCOURAGING VOTERS TO SWITCH FROM PARTY AFFILIATIONS TO “UNDECLARED” AND TO ENCOURAGE LEGISLATURE TO CHANGE VOTER REGISTRATION TO ALLOW FOR SAME DAY VOTING

WHEREAS: In the United States of America, elections for the U. S. House of Representatives occur every two years; and

WHEREAS: In the United State of America, elections for the U. S. Senate seats occur every six years; and

WHEREAS: In the United States of America, elections for the President of the United States of America occur every four years; and

WHEREAS: There is an election for the members of the Alaska State House every two years and every four years for the members of the Alaska State Senate; and

WHEREAS: There is an election for the Governor of Alaska every four years; and

WHEREAS: In the primary elections in the State of Alaska, the Alaska voters must get their ballots through their party affiliations; and

WHEREAS: Alaska voters registered as “Undeclared” may elect to vote as a Democrat or Republican during the Primary elections in the State of Alaska and thereby vote for the candidates that most support their views and standings on the issues discussed during the elections; and

WHEREAS: If an individual will not be present in their home community the only option in most rural communities is to vote by fax, or certified mail; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN encourage voters of Alaska, and in particular, the Alaska Native voters to switch from their party affiliations to becoming voters registered as “Undeclared” so that they may be able to vote for the candidates who support their views and standings during the elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urge the Governor of Alaska to direct the Division of Elections to provide for In-Person Absentee Voting in all rural communities; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN encourages the Alaska State Legislature to pursue and pass legislation that changes our voter registration to same day as voting.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-11

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR FULL FUNDING FOR INDIAN PROGRAMS IN LEGISLATION REDUCING THE NATIONAL DEBT AND ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL BUDGET

WHEREAS: Under the United States Constitution, the United States government has a Nation-to-Nation relationship, as set forth in the Commerce clause contained in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which states that the United States Congress has the power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes” (emphasis supplied), and under the Treaty clause, Article 6, Clause 2, which makes treaties the Supreme Law of the land; and,

WHEREAS: The U.S. has a unique and fundamental trust responsibility towards American Indians, Alaska Natives and federally recognized Indian Tribes, which includes a responsibility to provide health care to the various Tribal nations and to American Indian and Alaska Native citizens generally; and,

WHEREAS: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), part of the Department of Interior, is the government agency charged with carrying out the long-standing trust responsibility of the U.S. towards those peoples and Tribal Nations that first occupied the lands that became the United States; and,

WHEREAS: The BIA funds have historically been used in Alaska to provide a broad range of services to Tribal members including: Higher Education Scholarships; Adult Vocational Training; Tribal Operations; Land Management Services; Housing; Planning Assistance; Adult Basic Education Services; Children and Family Social Services, General Assistance; Subsistence and Fisheries Research and Advocacy; BIA Road Maintenance among other services; and,

WHEREAS: The Indian Health Service (IHS), part of the Department of Health and Human Services, is the agency responsible for providing health care to the citizens of Tribal Nations and American Indians and Alaska Natives not residing on the reservations; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives and American Indians experience the highest levels of unemployment, poverty, suicide, substance abuse, the cost of living and other negative indicators in the nations and depend on federal funding to help address these issues; and,

WHEREAS: Funding for the wide array of services essential to the welfare and success of Native Americans and Alaska Natives has never been adequate to meet the needs, and cuts to funding for these services are essentially another form of termination by the United States, a failed policy that has been repudiated by the courts and previous Presidential administrations that would seriously erode the trust

responsibility the U.S. has to American Indians, Alaska Natives and Indian Tribes; and,

WHEREAS: Funding for Alaska Native and American Indian programs is a small portion of the overall federal budget, were agreed to or provided for in treaties, statutes and court decisions and the proposed budget cuts will do little to balance the federal budget while causing great harm to Alaska Natives, American Indians, and the Tribal Governments that seek to meet their needs; and,

WHEREAS: The need to balance the federal budget and cuts in discretionary spending are necessary to the prosperity of the U.S., we do not believe the cuts should come for key areas of the BIA budget and Native American Programs that support education, social, economic development and other basic services in rural isolated economically depressed Tribal communities; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN does hereby support full funding for all U.S. programs in existence at present that provide a benefit to American Indians, Alaska Natives and federally recognized Indian Tribes, regardless of the Department within the Executive Branch that carries out the particular trust responsibility; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN hereby urges that in any discussion of short and long term reductions in expenditures that are part of legislation, the trust responsibility and duty of the U.S. to its citizens who are American Indians and Alaska Natives and to the federally recognized Indian tribes within the United States should not be reduced in any manner; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN hereby urges Congress to make plain that reductions in expenditures of the U.S. that may become part of legislation that reduces the national deficit for the United States will not include reductions for programs that benefit American Indians and Alaska Natives and will not impair the financial obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-12

TITLE: URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT ENCOURAGES EMPLOYMENT AND GENERATES REVENUE FOR NATIVE AMERICANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

WHEREAS: The Federal Government has a unique legal and political relationship with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, which is recognized in the U.S. Constitution, statutes, and Supreme Court decisions; and,

WHEREAS: Congress has a legitimate interest in promoting the economic and political self-sufficiency of Alaska Natives as a way to fulfill the government's unique obligations towards Alaska Natives; and,

WHEREAS: Providing access to federal contracting opportunities to qualified Native enterprises provides critical incentives that stimulate economic growth in Native communities, provides economic opportunities for Alaska Native enterprises, supports social services programs, and encourages entrepreneurship; and,

WHEREAS: Congress has held many hearings that seek to address and redress the overwhelming poverty and unemployment experienced by Native Americans and Alaska Natives both on and off the reservations that arises from their historical relationship with the Federal Government; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska Native communities suffer from the worst poverty in this country, with unemployment levels up to 75% and, because of the lack of resources, there are few individual entrepreneurs in Native communities; and,

WHEREAS: Through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the U.S. government committed to provide for the economic betterment of Alaska Natives; and,

WHEREAS: President Obama has introduced the American Jobs Act, "to provide tax relief for American workers and businesses, to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America, and to provide pathways back to work for Americans looking for jobs"; and,

WHEREAS: The American Jobs Act's tax cuts will be beneficial to more than 20,000 Native American-owned small business and 1.5 million workers; and,

WHEREAS: The Act calls for long-requested investment in tribal infrastructure, including schools, roads, and homes; and,

WHEREAS: The Federal Government buys over \$500 billion in goods and services annually, and has a statutory goal of awarding at least 23 percent (23%) of its purchases to small and disadvantaged businesses; 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 (SBA) 8(a) Business Development Program; and,

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN respectfully requests the continued support of Congress to maintain Native Americans and Alaska Native-owned enterprises in the 8(a) program for the benefit of all Native communities located in the United States; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN does hereby strongly encourage the Small Business Administration to seek ways to promote and expand participation in the 8(a) program for Native American and Alaska Native owned enterprises; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN does hereby urge the Administration to continue to consult with Native Americans and Alaska Natives on any changes to the 8(a) program that may affect our businesses and communities pursuant to Executive Order 13175; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN 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 and Alaska Natives to create economic development for the benefit of their respective Native communities; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress to support the passage of The American Jobs Act to further the support of employment and revenue generating for Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-13

TITLE: REESTABLISH BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (BIA) ALASKA REGION
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER POSITION

WHEREAS: BIA Alaska Region used to have a Law Enforcement Officer to enforce the law on Alaska Native allotments and restricted town site lands in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: That position was terminated at some point, likely due to budget cuts; and,

WHEREAS: While the State of Alaska has the authority to investigate federal crimes on Native Allotments and Restricted Town Site lands in Alaska, the State Troopers generally lack the training, time and/or the resources to address issues associated with these properties; and,

WHEREAS: There are 13,200 Native Allotments and 4,188 Restricted Town Site lots in Alaska encompassing just under 1.2 million acres, many of which are located at extremely remote sites, many of which contain significant archeological deposits ranging up to 6,000 years old; and,

WHEREAS: Many of these sites are being excavated by unauthorized individuals and the artifacts are being sold to artifact dealers; and,

WHEREAS: A single BIA Law Enforcement Officer alone could not address issues on all Alaska Native allotments and other restricted lands in the State of Alaska, but the BIA Law Enforcement Officer could both inform and help to coordinate State Trooper response to situations occurring on restricted lands, thereby increasing their effectiveness. At the same time, the BIA Law Enforcement Officer could ensure that the needs and priorities of Alaska Natives are voiced in discussions among members of the law enforcement community in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: The lack of a BIA Law Enforcement Officer in the region has meant that crimes on Native allotments and restricted Town Site lands in Alaska (including trespass, destruction of Native property, unauthorized digging for artifacts) are often not investigated, and the laws that are supposed to protect Alaska Native lives, liberty, and property are not enforced; and,

WHEREAS: The lack of enforcement of these laws has placed Alaska Native property in jeopardy; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that we request the President Obama, Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar and Assistant Secretary Echohawk to restore funding for a BIA Law Enforcement Officer for the Alaska Region to help coordinate and insure that issues associated with Native Allotments and restricted Town Site lots are addressed and resources protected.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-14

- TITLE:** RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE “DRAFT REPORT TO THE SECRETARY USDA’S OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS AND FOREST SERVICE POLICY AND PROCEDURES REVIEW: INDIAN SACRED SITES”
- WHEREAS:** The “Draft Report to the Secretary of Agriculture USDA Office of Tribal Relations and Forest Service Policy and Procedures Review: Indian Sacred Sites”, dated July 2011 invites comments from Alaska Native tribes and corporations; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives commends the USDA Office of Tribal Relations and Forest Service for undertaking the evaluation of the current conditions of Sacred Sites protection pursuant to Executive Order 13007 and other policies and procedures on National Forest lands; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives believes it was commendable in that the evaluation was frank in acknowledging the limitations of the Forest Service’s management of Sacred Sites; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives concurs with the Report’s reference to the series of deficiencies in the USDA Forest Service management of Sacred Sites that have allowed the desecration of Sacred Sites and burial sites and alterations to Sacred Sites that violate Native spiritual beliefs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Draft Report further provides a multitude of reasons why the Forest Service is not in the best position to protect Sacred Sites including the recognition:
- that "there is no statute mandating protection of Sacred Sites in all instances...."
 - that co-management with tribes is not possible since The Forest Service cannot delegate decision-making authority for action on NFS land to entities outside of the Federal Government
 - that the USDA recommendations offered in the draft report to improve its management "are contingent on the availability of funds;" and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives have generally experienced the absence of a collaborative working relationship with the Forest Service and is aware of its lack of understanding of the significance of Native spiritual beliefs, practices, and places; and
- WHEREAS:** The findings of the Draft Report and the experiences of Native Peoples have led Native Peoples to conclude that the Forest Service is not the best caretaker of our Sacred Sites; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have had a cultural and spiritual relationship to their aboriginal lands for thousands and thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: Hunting and fishing as well as conducting religious ceremonies are considered sacred by traditional people; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives assert that Sacred Sites are best protected under Native ownership; and

WHEREAS: Although Native Peoples firmly believe that Sacred Sites are best protected under Native ownership, we regretfully accept the unfortunate reality that we may never be able to obtain ownership of all of our Sacred Sites; and

WHEREAS: Without the possibility of Native ownership of all of our Sacred Sites, the Alaska Federation of Natives find that it is in our best interest to offer recommendations to the USDA as to how it can improve its policy and procedures to ensure the protection of Indian Sacred Sites; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN offers the following recommendations for consideration to be included in the “Final Report to the Secretary of Agriculture Office of Tribal Relations and Forest Service Policy and Procedures Review: Indian Sacred Sites.”

- USDA should recognize that Native Peoples have a spiritual relationship to their Sacred Sites and support Native ownership of Sacred Sites whenever this possibility exists, and
- USDA should seek and support legislative changes that would allow tribes to implement management or co-management of Sacred Sites on Forest Service lands, and
- USDA should seek funding and initiate administrative changes within the Forest Service organization and its procedures to implement the recommendations outlined in the Final Report, and
- USDA should initiate and support measures to recognize the expansive Sacred Landscape concept as outlined in the Report, and
- USDA management of Sacred Sites should recognize that hunting and fishing have sacred dimensions for Alaska Native Peoples and implement its management regimes to support these activities, and
- USDA shall seek to understand the cultural and spiritual values of Alaska Natives through, but not limited to, the following measures:
- Contract with appropriate Native scholars and entities to develop material that outlines Native culture and values related to Sacred Sites, and

- Provide regular cultural orientations and training for Forest Service personnel, and
- Develop a plan and measures to increase Native employment at all levels and provide regular reports to the Native community of its progress, and
- USDA shall implement meaningful and integrated consultations with appropriate tribes, Native corporations and representative Native organizations and provide reports to the Native entities on subsequent action initiated on the proposed policy or action that was the subject of consultation, and
- If the Forest Service is to own our Sacred Sites, it should use its every legal authority and discretion to protect Sacred Sites.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



SUBSISTENCE



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-15

- TITLE:** CALLING ON THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ASSESS AND CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE ALASKA FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S (AC's) AND PROVIDE FUNDING TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS
- WHEREAS:** 5 Alaska Administrative Code 96.010, established a system of local fish and game advisory committees; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Fish and Game Advisory Committees are organized to ensure Alaskans are given an opportunity to engage with the Alaska Board of Fish and the Alaska Board of Game on the management of fish and wildlife resources; and
- WHEREAS:** This is accomplished by providing;
- 1.) Oral and written testimony during Board of Fish or Board of Game meetings during public testimony, and
 - 2.) Writing and submitting proposals to either body on management practices concerning fish and/or game; and,
- WHEREAS:** The AC's are a platform for Alaskans to express opinions and recommendations on matters relating to the management of fish and wildlife resources; and
- WHEREAS:** Improvements are needed to ensure Alaskan voices play a greater role in deliberating and setting regulations that impact their way of life; and
- WHEREAS:** There are significant problematic issues concerning the AC's, including;
- 1.) Apathy within rural communities;
 - 2.) The number of AC's, estimated to be about eighty (80)
 - 3.) Inactive AC's, and
 - 4.) Lack of funding; and,
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that the State of Alaska fund a statewide meeting to examine, debate and evaluate methods to improve the Alaska Fish and Game Advisory Committees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governor Parnell, the Alaska State Legislature, and the Commissioner of Fish and Game assess the Alaska Fish and Game Advisory Committee process, and adopt procedures to improve the process.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF UNALAKEET, ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-16

TITLE: PROTECTING KING SALMON AND THEIR HABITATS

WHEREAS: Subsistence fishing limits and closures on Alaska's rivers are becoming more frequent due to fewer King salmon returning every year, resulting in conflicts between villagers and Fish and Wildlife Protection Officers; and

WHEREAS: The proliferation of high horse power, jet propelled boats in spawning areas of the rivers, the high seas incidental catches, the lack of programs designed to protect King salmon and their habitats, and the lack of hatcheries in spawning areas of the rivers, all combine to jeopardize the future of all salmon species and jeopardize our ability to fulfill our subsistence needs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN and its member organizations are urged to support and work with Alaska Fish and Game biologists on programs that monitor salmon returns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such studies be forwarded to the State Legislature to support legislation that would prohibit high horse powered jet propelled boats in spawning areas of the rivers during spawning season, limit high seas incidental catches and provide for salmon hatchery programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the State and Federal governments, as a matter of priority, conduct further research on measures that can be taken to control the incidental catch of King Salmon, and to meaningfully enforce the requirements of Title VIII of ANILCA and the State subsistence law to provide for subsistence needs of Alaska Natives.

SUBMITTED BY: NAPAKIAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 11- 17

TITLE: TO PROTECT SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES AND LIFESTYLES

WHEREAS: AFN has a long-standing priority to protect and enhance subsistence resources and lifestyles and which includes the preservation of clean air, pristine water quality, protection of habitat, and the overall health of the environment for subsistence uses; and,

WHEREAS: Development on state and federal lands and waters in Alaska could adversely affect resident fish and wildlife populations; and,

WHEREAS: Responsible development planning must incorporate local input and must consider the direct and indirect impacts to fish and wildlife resources as part of plan submissions to state and federal agencies; and,

WHEREAS: Responsible development planning must consider environmental and health concerns that might affect subsistence lifestyles; and,

WHEREAS: AFN recognizes that Alaskan rivers, lands, fish and wildlife need protection if they are going to continue to provide subsistence foods; and,

WHEREAS: AFN supports responsible development that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges the state and federal governments to require all development plans for state and federal lands and waters in Alaska to (1) include local input that is gathered through a public process when projects are first proposed, (2) consider and describe the direct and indirect impacts the development will have on fish and wildlife, environment and subsistence uses, (3) include substantive mitigation measures prepared with meaningful local involvement, and (4) be subject to public review and comment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports responsible development that protects and enhances subsistence resources and lifestyles and that meets the above-described requirements.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: REFER TO THE AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-18

TITLE: TO PROTECT SUBSISTENCE AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

WHEREAS: Subsistence and commercial salmon fisheries exist as the base economies for the user-communities in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: The salmon resources decline in many areas of Alaska in recent decades is increasingly threatening the lives, health, and survival of our families, our children, and the elderly and has, is, and will result in further serious social ills and devastating economic consequences due to collapses of our salmon fisheries; and,

WHEREAS: Two Yukon federal fisheries disasters have been declared in 2000 and 2009; and,

WHEREAS: While the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, local and regional user-communities have and are collectively addressing the decline of the salmon resources by unprecedented volume of conservation measures, the user-communities are the only party having to actually live out the near-unbearable costs of the sacrificing in order to adhere to more and more stringent restrictions, regulations and closures in the subsistence and commercial fisheries. The hope for a better than-a-meager harvest will become more and more common and the prospects of sustaining their individual, family and community lives, cultures, economies become dimmer and dimmer; and,

WHEREAS: All the severe conservation measures have been limited only to the migratory pathway to the salmon in Alaska's rivers and coastal areas, while no other defined measures beyond natal streams have taken place to protect Alaska's subsistence and commercial fisheries, the lifeline to the communities; and,

WHEREAS: These on-going, in-river hardship-causing conservation measures, just as natural disasters, are more and more visibly exhausting the spirits and energies of the subsistence and commercial users in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: If no defined action is taken outside the Alaska's migratory pathways of the returning salmon, our lives will continue to be negatively impacted; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc, that we call upon our Honorable Governor Sean Parnell in cooperative effort with the Alaska Fisheries Commissioner, Alaska Board of Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State Legislature, to work out a comprehensive plan to protect Alaska's subsistence fisheries and revitalize commercial fisheries; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once the defined plan is developed, to seek authorization from the U.S. President and the United States Congress for federal fisheries managing agencies to implement the plan to protect the subsistence and commercial fisheries throughout their entire migratory route.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS,
EMMONAK

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: REFER TO THE AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-19

TITLE: CALLING FOR AFN TO ADVOCATE FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE 2013 RE-AUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

WHEREAS: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is federal legislation that dictates and governs fisheries off the coast of the United States from three nautical miles to two hundred nautical miles; and

WHEREAS: The fisheries and marine resources off the coast and along the river systems of the United States are important sources of nutrition, cultural heritage, subsistence and small commercial economy for federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS: The fisheries off the coast of the United States are also important and contribute to the Nation's economy by providing employment in industrial commercial, commercial and sport fishing; and

WHEREAS: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is up for reauthorization in 2013; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN engage in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act during the 113th Congress; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN seek to include provisions in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that:

- Set in place stringent conflict of interest policies for Council members;
- Require tribal consultation on issues affecting tribal members for both the regional councils and the National Marine Fisheries Services;
- Increase representation of the federally recognized tribes by authorizing voting seats for the tribes in Alaska on the North Pacific Council. Apply the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App 2) to the Councils, and the Council coordination committee established under the subsection (1), and to the scientific and statistical committees or other committees or advisory panels established under subsection (G); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the membership of AFN authorizes staff of AFN to work with non-governmental organizations, the United States Congress and the White House to pursue the amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act as described in this resolution.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF UNALAKLEET, ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11- 20

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO DESIGNATE A FIFTY-MILE BUFFER FROM THE OUTER MOST LAND MASS ON THE COAST OF ALASKA FOR THE PROTECTION OF SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES AND HABITATS IN COASTAL AND NEAR SHORE COMMUNITIES FROM BOTTOM FISH TRAWLING
- WHEREAS:** Practicing a Customary and Traditional Subsistence Way of Life is a Basic Fundamental Human Right for Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of our Villages derive their Subsistence Food Sources from the sea in close proximity to our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The entire destructive bottom trawler fishery has historically fished in close proximity to our coastal communities interfering the essential food sources for halibut, seals, walrus, whales and other important and essential subsistence food sources; and
- WHEREAS:** Eye witnesses, based on personal interviews, have seen ocean vegetation including sea lettuce, sea weed, and other forms of bottom sea life which are essential to the marine ecosystem disrupted in the wake of trawlers operating off the coastal communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Trawlers, in addition to the effects of global warming, may create irreparable harm to the food chain in the Bering Sea ecosystem which will likely be detrimental to subsistence food sources; and
- WHEREAS:** Buffer zones are important for the protection of ecosystems important to our subsistence food resources; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request the North Pacific Fishery Management Council; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to designate a fifty-mile subsistence buffer zone off the furthest land mass on the Coast of Alaska while providing maximum protection for Community Development Quota Programs (CDQ) already in existence.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-21

- TITLE:** CALLING ON THE STATE TO REVOKE A BISON HUNT AUCTION PERMIT ISSUED TO THE ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL THAT WILL RESULT IN FINANCING THE AOC'S ANTI-SUBSISTENCE LITIGATION AND ACTIVITIES
- WHEREAS:** AFN and its tribal and corporate members have, over the past three decades, been constantly forced to defend state and federal laws intended to protect the subsistence hunting and fishing rights upon which Alaska Natives depend to ensure the opportunity to continue their customary and traditional way of life; and,
- WHEREAS:** These legal battles have cost Alaska Native organizations millions of dollars and thousands of hours of time and energy that could have been devoted to other essential issues relating to the health, economy and well-being of Alaska Native Peoples; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) through its litigation arm, the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund, has repeatedly been the source of this litigation, and has consistently been at the forefront of opposing the implementation and passage of laws and regulations that would result in providing for meaningful subsistence hunting and fishing opportunities on State, Federal and Native lands; and,
- WHEREAS:** The AOC, among other issues, backed Sam McDowell in the Alaska Supreme Court in "McDowell v. State", which declared the rural priority unconstitutional; backed McDowell in a similar suit against the federal government ("McDowell II, in federal court arguing that subsistence provisions of ANILCA violate the United States constitution; backed the State in the Katie John litigation asking the court to drastically limit the scope of federal lands and waters protected under Title VIII of ANILCA in the Katie John litigation; is currently arguing in the Alaska Supreme Court that the community subsistence hunts established for Ahtna's traditional hunting territory by the Board of Game violates Alaska's Constitution; and has consistently fought against any amendment to the State's Constitution recognizing a rural subsistence priority; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has recently awarded the AOC a valuable Delta bison permit for the 2012 hunt – Alaska Law (AS 16.05.343(a)), the permit is to go to a "nonprofit organization dedicated to fish and game law enforcement" and the organization may keep "100% of the auction or raffle proceeds"; and,

WHEREAS: Through this permit award to the AOC, the State has essentially recognized that the AOC's anti-subsistence litigation and other activities qualify as actions "dedicated to fish and game law enforcement" and is helping finance the AOC's litigation and other anti-subsistence activities by allowing the organization to keep 100% of the potentially large amount of funds raised through this auction; and,

WHEREAS: The bison which are the subject of the permit awarded to the AOC are a public asset of all Alaskans, including Alaska Natives and others who benefit from legal, administrative and political protections intended to ensure meaningful opportunities for customary and traditional subsistence uses; and,

WHEREAS: ADF&G's award of this auction permit to the AOC, given the organizations history and current activities, is highly inappropriate and sends an offensive message to thousands of Alaskans who strongly disagree with the legal and political agenda of the AOC; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the assembled delegates of AFN express their unified and determined opposition to ADF&G's award of the bison auction permit to the AOC, and call on the Commissioner of ADF&G and the Governor to revoke the permit.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA INCORPORATED

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11- 22

TITLE: CONTINUED FUNDING TO AID ALASKA'S NATIVE CHILDREN

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska Office of Children's Services (OCS) has settled the *Curyung v. Alaska*, a lawsuit alleging ongoing violation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA); and

WHEREAS: This settlement included an admission from OCS of its failure to adequately comply with ICWA; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's Native regional nonprofits were provided funds to aid OCS with this deficit; and

WHEREAS: Following receipt of these funds, Alaska's Native regional nonprofits have made significant improvements resulting in an increased number of Alaska Native children being placed in ICWA compliant homes; and an increase in the number of Alaska Native foster homes for Alaska's youth; and

WHEREAS: The *Curyung* Lawsuit settlement funding is scheduled to end on June 30, 2012; and,

WHEREAS: The ICWA Compliance Program is essential to continue progress towards the ultimate goal of ensuring every Alaska Native child in foster care is placed in an Alaska Native home; and,

WHEREAS: Failure to support a continuation of Alaska's ICWA Compliance Program will result in a drastic reduction of services to Alaska's Native foster children; and,

WHEREAS: The continuation of Alaska's ICWA compliance is essential for Alaska's most precious resource, our Native children; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the State of Alaska, Department of Health & Social Services is urged to support a continuation of the Indian Child Welfare Compliance Grant program for Alaska's regional Native non-profit organizations through a Provider Agreement or Grant.

SUBMITTED BY: ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS
ASSOCIATIO

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-23

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA) 2012 FISCAL YEAR FUNDING

WHEREAS: The Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program, created by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is a primary source of funding in Alaska for affordable housing and housing-related activities for low-income Alaska Native and American Indian families; and

WHEREAS: The IHBG program enables Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) to develop and operate elder and family rental housing, develop homes for homeownership, provide affordable home loans and down payment assistance, deliver housing readiness counseling, issue tenant-based and project-based rental assistance vouchers, provide weatherization upgrades, combat homelessness, and provide supportive housing for individuals with special needs; and

WHEREAS: The Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) provides funding to tribes each year for infrastructure and community facility development; and

WHEREAS: NAHASDA funding enables Tribes and TDHEs to leverage significant additional public and private sector resources to serve the affordable housing needs of Alaska Native and American Indian families; and

WHEREAS: NAHASDA has proven to be effective in addressing the severe shortage of safe, affordable housing in Indian country by enabling Tribes and TDHEs throughout the U.S. to build 8,130 homeownership and 5,011 rental units, acquire 3,811 homeownership and 800 rental units, and rehabilitate 27,422 homeownership and 5,289 rental units from 2003 to 2008 alone; and

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

WHEREAS: Congress is considering reductions to many of the federally funded programs as a result of the U.S. budget deficit; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that Congress and the President approve FY 2012 Indian Housing Block Grant (NAHASDA) funding at the President's proposed budget amount of \$700 million and funding for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) at the President's proposed amount of \$65 million.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION; ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-24

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF MITIGATING RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE COSTS

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

WHEREAS: Insurance costs are draining badly needed resources from classrooms and will continue to do so unless steps are taken to mitigate these uncontrolled increases, which only add to the administrative overhead of all districts; and

WHEREAS: The cost of liability coverage, in particular, has added to escalation of fixed costs faced by districts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. advocates that the State of Alaska Legislature take action through the creation of state risk pools to mitigate increases in insurance costs.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-25

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

WHEREAS: Alaska Legal Services Corporation's (ALSC's) twenty lawyers serve a poverty population exceeding 80,000 Alaskans, including over 20,000 Native Alaskans, in ten offices around the state; and,

WHEREAS: Although the May 2000, Alaska Supreme Court Access to Civil Justice Task Force Report recommended that ALSC be funded at \$5 million annually, ALSC's actual funding has remained at approximately \$3 million since that time; and

WHEREAS: That same report estimated that approximately ½ of this population would face a legal need at some point during any given 12-month period; and

WHEREAS: ALSC estimates that it is currently providing assistance to only 10%-20% of those needing such assistance, which figure appears to be consistent with estimate of 20% in the national Legal Services Corporation report from September 2005, "Documenting the Justice Gap in America"; and

WHEREAS: The vast majority of ALSC's cases involve the basic human necessities of shelter, food, access to medical care, income, maintenance, and safety and stability within the family; and,

WHEREAS: Several regional Native nonprofits, including Bristol Bay Native Association, Maniilaq Association, and Kawerak have made significant financial and in-kind contributions over the years for the re-establishment of small ALSC offices which had formerly had to be closed in the communities of Dillingham, Nome, and Kotzebue; and others, including the Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, and the Nome Eskimo Community have otherwise provided support for ALSC; and,

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska, which had for several years been one of only five states making no appropriation for civil legal assistance to its citizens, did make an appropriation to ALSC for FY 2011, approved by Governor Parnell, in the amount of \$350,000, but it is unclear whether this will be sustained in future fiscal years; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges Governor Parnell to retain and increase the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed FY 2012 budget, and urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding, and urges Congress to award sufficient funding to the federal Legal Services Corporation to support Alaska Legal Services Corporation's mission of providing free legal services on vital issues to low income Alaskans.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-26

TITLE: PROTECTING HUD INDIAN HOUSING FUNDING

WHEREAS: Native American housing programs funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by HUD's Office of Native American Program (ONAP) suffered a 7% funding reduction in FY 2011 and are facing at 20-30% cut in the FY 2012 appropriations, with more to come in future years as the United States attempts to reduce its budget deficit; and

WHEREAS: These programs are the primary source of housing funds for Indian reservations and Alaska Native villages, and cuts of this magnitude threaten the entire program structure; and

WHEREAS: It does not appear that HUD's Indian programs – the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHUB) and the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) programs have been particularly protected or insulated from cuts within HUD even though these programs are safety net programs provided under the general trust obligation of the United States Government to Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS: Further HUD and perhaps the appropriations subcommittees dealing with HUD do not sufficiently recognize the distinction between Indian programs and other types of aid programs; and

WHEREAS: Indian programs derive from the special political, moral and legal obligations of the United States toward tribes stemming from treaties and treaty substitutes; and

WHEREAS: In contrast to HUD, Indian programs within the Department of the Interior (DOI), mostly within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), have been relatively protected from budget reductions. DOI, when possible, exempts Indian programs from across the board cuts. The same is true generally with Indian Health Service (IHS) funding, which is appropriated in the Interior Department's appropriations bill. Of the three major agency funding streams into Indian Country (BIA, IHS and HUD), only the HUD funding seems unprotected; and

WHEREAS: AFN established a priority to protect Native American/Alaska Native program budgets in the Department of the Interior and exempt those programs from any across-the-board rescissions. Advocacy for this priority with Congress and the Administration is a continuing process, with increasing efforts during these times of Federal budget cuts. AFN also has a long-standing priority to increase contracting and compacting opportunities for Native or tribal programs for increased efficiency and improved service delivery; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that Congress and the President are urged to protect Indian Housing funding consistent with AFN's priorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriations for ONAP's programs be moved to the Department of the Interior's appropriations bill, similar to the IHS. ONAP would be treated as a "related agency" to DOI, but administratively would remain in HUD.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: POSTPONE INDEFINETELY





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-27

TITLE: URGING CONGRESS TO FUND LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) AT LEAST AT THE \$5.1 BILLION LEVEL

WHEREAS: Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc., Association of Village Council Presidents, Bristol Bay Native Association, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Kodiak Area Native Association, Kuskokwim Native Association, Orutsararmuit Native Council, Seldovia Village Tribe, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc., Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority, and Yakutat Tlingit Tribe operate the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) within their service areas; and

WHEREAS: LIHEAP provides critically needed assistance to low income families in this region, which has long, cold winters and extraordinarily high heating fuel costs; and

WHEREAS: For many families only LIHEAP enables them to keep their houses heated through the winter; and

WHEREAS: The President's FY 2012 budget request proposed reducing LIHEAP back to the FY 2008 level of \$2.57 billion; it is estimated nationally that a cutback of this scale will reduce services by more than a third, which is unconscionable during times of economic stress and increasing fuel prices; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges Congress to appropriate \$5.1 billion or more for LIHEAP in FY 2012.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-28

TITLE: REQUESTING CONGRESS SUPPORTS CONTINUING RESOLUTION THAT EXEMPTS CUTS TO THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)

WHEREAS: The U.S. Congress will vote on a continuing resolution to fund the federal government operations; and

WHEREAS: H.J. Res. 79 includes a 7-week across the board cut to discretionary spending by 1.5%, which means that the budget of IHS will be cut by 1.5% from October 1st to November 18th; and

WHEREAS: IHS is currently operating at 56.5% of its budgetary needs, even this small cut will have a disastrous effect on the health of American Indians and Alaska Natives, for some it will mean loss of life; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN supports amending H.J. Res 79 to exempt IHS from this cut.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-29

TITLE: SUPPORTING S. 1192 THE ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT

WHEREAS: All children are created with the inherent right to be safe, loved and nurtured, to receive excellent health care, nutrition and shelter, and to be heard, seen, believed and acknowledged; and

WHEREAS: All of the children in our regions have the right to a name, a tribal identity and the right to remain safely with his/her birthparents, to know their extended family and community, to know their tribal and cultural traditions and language, which all are an important part of a child's identity and essential to our survival as a people; and,

WHEREAS: All children and families have the right to be free of physical, emotional, and mental abuse and neglect, and free of discrimination, racism and the demeaning or destructive acts of others, both individuals and institutions; and,

WHEREAS: All children, youth and families have the right to access, learn about and benefit from our tribal and native history, culture, language, spiritual traditions and philosophy and art, and we believe that connectedness to their tribal and native history and culture is essential to their well-being and health; and,

WHEREAS: Some Alaska Native villages have the highest rates of alcohol abuse and family violence in the country; and,

WHEREAS: There has been an absence of clear authority, lack of resources and misunderstandings among efforts by local communities, the State of Alaska, and the federal government in addressing current social issues at the local and tribal levels ; and,

WHEREAS: There is an actual and/or perceived stripping of authority of traditional Native Institutions and Native Ways of Knowing that has occurred since statehood, and that this has left a gap or lack of resources and services that can never be filled by state law enforcement, state courts, state child protection services, operating out of regional centers; and

WHEREAS: Our Native Villages, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Leaders have the responsibility and the inherent right to ensure that all our tribal children, families and communities are safe, healthy and free of violence; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich introduced the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act, S. 1192; and

WHEREAS: This bill would create a demonstration project by which participating tribes would be able to locally enforce tribal laws regarding alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse and neglect, and a grant program to support the project; and

WHEREAS: There is a high need for additional resources to help address the social issues using local and tribal strengths; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention urges Alaska's Delegation to do all that is necessary to enact S. 1192. Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-30

TITLE: SUPPORT AN AMENDMENT TO THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT TO RECONCILE THE COMPETING DEFINITIONS FOR "INDIAN"

WHEREAS: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) contains favorable procedural rules, cost-sharing protections, and mandatory enrollments that apply specifically to Alaska Natives and American Indians; generally referred to as "Indians", and,

WHEREAS: Different provisions within ACA either uses different definitions of the term "Indian," citing to three competing definitions from three statutory authorities, or does not include any definition at all; and,

WHEREAS: These discrepancies will create confusion and inconsistency in the implementation of ACA, potentially leading to delays, and possible denials, in the provision of services and protections afforded Alaska Natives and American Indians; and,

WHEREAS: In recent proposed regulations implementing portions of ACA, CMS has interpreted the definitions extremely narrowly, limiting the term, "Indian" as meaning "a member of a federally-recognized Indian Tribe," which is incorrect as a matter of law; and,

WHEREAS: Using this definition of "Indian" with regard to Alaska Natives, whose membership is oftentimes based on descendency from an original Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act shareholder or through ownership of stock in a regional or village corporation, will result in serious consequences, including a finding that such Alaska Natives would not be considered an "Indian;" and,

WHEREAS: Legislative action is necessary in order to reconcile these three competing definitions because the Department of Health & Human Services, Department of Indian Health Services, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have all rejected requests for a regulatory reconciled definition; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urges its congressional delegation to unify the definition of "Indian" under ACA and Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) and clarify that the definition includes all Indians who are entitled to

programs or services of Indian Health Service (directly or through contracts and compacts with tribes or tribal organizations under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) or contracts with urban Indian health programs under Title V of the IHCA.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



CULTURAL



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-31

TITLE: RURAL VETERINARY BOARD

WHEREAS: The proper handling, treatment and use of animals, particularly but not exclusively dogs are important features in our cultural/traditional lifestyle; and,

WHEREAS: There is a need for adequate and cost-effective veterinary services in rural Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: There is a need to develop and maintain a level of public education among rural Alaska residents as to the care of their animals and the prevention of accidents and disease; and,

WHEREAS: The lack of such veterinary services has created a public health issue that affects rural residents; and,

WHEREAS: The residents of rural Alaska need an organization to speak for them in seeking to have these needs met; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc, that AFN support establishment of a Rural Alaska Veterinary Board in accordance with applicable laws.

SUBMITTED BY: NENANA NATIVE COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-32

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF THE EFFORTS TO CREATE THE “ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE” WHO’S MISSION IS TO PROMOTE, ELEVATE, AND DEVELOP THE RECOGNIZED CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL ACTIVITY OF DOG MUSHING AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

WHEREAS: A meeting of State and city economic development officers, tourism directors, marketers, and associates, business owners, Statewide sled dog racing directors and board members, mushers and sled dog club representatives, and a Native corporation tourism director was organized by George Attla Jr. and held on October 9, 2009, in Fairbanks, Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: The following resolution was proposed and later approved by the undersigned; and,

WHEREAS: The State “sport” of Alaska is dog mushing, and there is tremendous economic and tourism potential in the development of sled dog racing in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: While dog mushing is seen more of a sport in these times, the activity itself has deep roots in the historical, customary, and traditional lives of the first Alaskans. The sport of dog mushing is interwoven in the history and culture of our state and it is known that dog mushing played a critical role in the settlement and development of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: The relationship between humans and dogs is valued and treasured by Native Alaska cultures. The relationship between humans and dogs, being on our land, and community involvement and support has proven to greatly enhance emotional and mental well being. It has and will continue to instill self-respect and pride in past, present, and future generations; and,

WHEREAS: The body formed will be called the ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE; and,

WHEREAS: The mission of the ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE is to promote, elevate and develop the sport of sled dog racing in all formats; distance, stage, sprint, etc., in locations all over Alaska as a means of generating economic development opportunities; and,

WHEREAS: The ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE will support participating entities and/or organizations hosting sled dog races with promotional, marketing, and fundraising efforts that may not be otherwise available in volunteer-run organizations; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN supports creation of the ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE to offer a set of standards for entities hosting dog sled racing and to assist such organizations to adhere to and to further ensure the positive elevation of dog racing and the associated benefits to the State of Alaska, and enhance participating sled dog racing events in Alaska, creating an economic stimulus to the areas hosting the events.

SUBMITTED BY: HUSLIA TRIBAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-33

TITLE: THE NAMING OF GEOLOGIC LANDMARKS ON NATIVE-OWNED LANDS

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have lived on their lands since time immemorial; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have attached names to the geologic landmarks on their lands; and,

WHEREAS: Through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act ("ANCSA"), Congress provided for the return of 45.6 million acres of land to Alaska Native Corporations; and,

WHEREAS: Additional lands in Alaska are owned by Alaska Native tribes, and Alaska Native individuals and families; and,

WHEREAS: Current law neither recognizes names given by Alaska Natives to geographic landmarks nor authorizes the naming of such landmarks by Alaska Natives on Native-owned lands; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN does hereby support efforts to allow the exclusive right of Alaska Native entities and individuals to name the geographic landmarks and place names on Native-owned lands.

SUBMITTED BY: THE EYAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



EDUCATION



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-34

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF ADDRESSING THE TEACHER, SPECIALIST AND ADMINISTRATOR SHORTAGE
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska Legislature enacts legislation to better the quality of life and education for all Alaskans; and,
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska Legislature enacts legislation to ensure that all Alaskan students have access to a highly qualified teacher; and,
- WHEREAS:** A severe shortage of teachers, specialists, and administrators is being experienced in the school districts in every region of Alaska; and,
- WHEREAS:** Attracting and retaining quality teachers has become a critical issue facing school districts as they work to improve education in Alaska's public schools; and,
- WHEREAS:** A teacher's job satisfaction is gauged by a number of factors, including a sense of accomplishment, professional support, decent living conditions, and adequate compensation/benefits. The degree to which Alaska meets these needs is a statement of the value we place on our educators.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN advocates to the State of Alaska Legislature for Teacher Education Programs in Alaska's universities to address the severe shortage of teachers, specialists, and administrators in the State of Alaska. Suggested strategies may include:

- Incentives (salary bonuses, loan forgiveness, loan assumption, defined benefit retirement plans, interest rate reduction, etc.);
- State supported marketing and licensure assistance to recruit teachers;
- Flexibility in certification requirements and reciprocity;
- Enhance and expand alternative routes to teacher certification;
- Improve availability and/or quality of teacher housing;
- Improve the access to technological communication tools for rural teachers;
- Mentoring programs for new teachers;
- Allow for rehire of experienced retired teachers and administrators;
- Professional support/development and
- Local culturally based orientation to all teachers.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-35

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF ALASKA NATIVE TEACHER HIRE AND RETENTION

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

WHEREAS: Studies have shown that Native teachers have had a very positive effect on Native students; and,

WHEREAS: The hiring and retention of qualified Alaska Native teachers has long been supported by educational and Native organizations; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN advocates that school districts recruit qualified Native teachers and administrators; additionally that local school districts, with the help of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, are encouraged to provide leadership in developing programs to encourage Native students to choose education as a field of study, and to make every effort, including new funding from the legislature, to foster the training, certification, hiring and retention of Native teacher aides and teachers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the colleges and universities within the state are encouraged to more actively recruit Native students and to develop Indigenous certification programs designed to build on the strengths of indigenous pedagogies.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-36

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINED, RELIABLE AND ADEQUATE EDUCATIONAL FUNDING FOR ALASKA'S STUDENTS THROUGH A NON-VOLATILE FUNDING SOURCE

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

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska provides a wide range of services to a diverse population spread over a logistically complex area; and,

WHEREAS: Providing these services historically cost more than the state has received in recurring revenue; and,

WHEREAS: A long-term plan that ensures reliability of funding for education and other state services that impact the delivery of education, regardless of variation in volatile resource markets, is needed to provide a stable business climate and to ensure the citizens of necessary services; and,

WHEREAS: The sustainability, reliability and adequacy of Alaska's funding for public education are of highest concern to the Alaska Federation of Natives; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN advocates that the State of Alaska Legislature develop a fiscal plan that provides a long term approach to funding the full costs of public education and other services upon which Alaska's students and their families depend.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-37

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

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

WHEREAS: The foundation of cognition is established early in childhood, and research clearly demonstrates the efficacy of educational programming for 3-4 year-olds; and

WHEREAS: Access to these programs is important for every child in Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. advocates for full implementation and funding by the State of Alaska Legislature of a Kindergarten age 3-Kindergarten age 4 programs for every Alaskan child of these ages.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-38

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUNDING POOL TO HELP FUND TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND STATE-LEVEL COMPETITIONS

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes that a comprehensive public education includes co-curricular activities such as sports, academics and the arts; and,

WHEREAS: Involvement in interscholastic activities has been shown to increase academic achievement. As such, the opportunity for students to participate at state-level tournaments, festivals and competitions is one of the educational experiences we want and endeavor to have our children experience; and,

WHEREAS: Travel expenses to state-level tournaments and competitions are not normally budgeted by school districts. The preponderance of the burden to fund travel for extracurricular activities has fallen to parents and rural communities that are facing more difficult economic issues and fewer available dollars to support these opportunities; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN advocates that we join with the Alaska Association of School Boards and the Alaska School Activities Association to request that the Alaska Legislature and the Governor work together to establish a funding pool to help school districts fund travel for students to attend state-level tournaments, festivals and competitions.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-39

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED BASE-LEVEL FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

WHEREAS: The joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force was charged with examining school district costs (including energy, housing, staffing, retention and many other variable costs) and the existing formula for distributing state aid for education; and,

WHEREAS: Appropriating an adequate amount to fund education is a legislative responsibility. The primary responsibility for school boards is allocation of those funds. Unlike many school boards throughout the nation, Alaska school boards do not have fiscal autonomy; and,

WHEREAS: School Boards know from experience that “full funding” of the education funding formula by state policy makers does not necessarily equate to “adequate” funding. Our success in meeting state and national requirements requires greater investment in people, processes, and accountability measures; and,

WHEREAS: Our parents and communities are calling for decreased class size, additional support for at-risk students, adequate textbooks and teaching materials, and updated technology, all of which require additional funding. The state needs to provide funds to prevent declines in current educational services and to provide for strengthening these services into the future; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges the State of Alaska Legislature to provide full funding necessary to meet the increasing needs of Alaska’s youth, increasing requirements of state and federal law and inflationary increases in costs.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-40

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING STANDARDS-BASED EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS IN ALASKA

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

WHEREAS: State and local performance standards set high expectations in mathematics, reading and writing for children ages 5 through 7; and,

WHEREAS: Research indicates that earlier education is critical for many children to successfully reach those expectations; and,

WHEREAS: With the enactment of federal No Child Left Behind legislation, the legislature will be responsible for paying the cost of missing the opportunity to reach children at the age when the greatest gains in mental development are possible. Even in communities which have Head Start programs, the program is usually unable to accommodate all children who qualify; and,

WHEREAS: Strict Head Start income requirements deprive many pre-schoolers who could benefit from the program; and,

WHEREAS: Appropriate early learning programs should be an integral part of district curriculum and instruction. Inclusion of early learning in a school has an impact on facilities planning and would be a wise use of state funds; and,

WHEREAS: The state offers only very limited pilot funding for early-learning education. Many communities do not meet the qualifications for federal Head Start or early-learning funding and sources of present federal or state funding are uncertain or non-existent; and,

WHEREAS: Most existing early-learning programs cannot afford certificated early-learning teachers; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN advocates that the State of Alaska Legislature add additional funding for the planning, programming and implementation of voluntary early learning and family support programs for all pre-school children as an important long-term investment in Alaska's future workforce and citizenry.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ECONOMICS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-41

- TITLE:** SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC LAW 102-477 PROGRAMMING BY UPHOLDING TRIBAL MANAGEMENT OVER FEDERAL AGENCY FUNDS IN AN INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992, has proven to be an exceptional success in making existing federal programming more effective in meeting the employment, training, education and welfare reform needs of Tribes, Tribal Organizations and their members; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477 substantially reduces the administrative cost and time to manage integrated programs, promotes efficiency, and expands ability to provide services; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477 promotes increasing the cooperation and coordination of federal agencies with regard to Tribes and Tribal Organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477 fully embodies the concepts of Tribal Self-Governance and Self-Determination found in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and
- WHEREAS:** 61 contractors and compactors, representing 264 Tribes and Tribal Organizations, have successfully adopted P.L. 102-477 in the administration of Tribal employment, training, education and welfare reform programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations run 17 of the 61 programs and include 217 of the 264 Tribes and Tribal Organizations in the 477 program.
- WHEREAS:** The P.L. 102-477 program received the highest Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) rating of any program in Department of the Interior Indian Affairs by the Office of Management and Budget; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the record of Tribal success with P.L. 102-477, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is refusing, without appropriate Tribal consultation, to fully participate in the P.L. 102-477 Program; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and Tribal Organizations have been forced to withdraw their proposed 477 plans because DHHS denies or significantly delays approval to the detriment of Tribal employment and training programs; and

WHEREAS: The Office of Management and Budget through mid-year compliance guidelines to Circular A-133 retroactively requires Tribes and Tribal Organizations to account for 477 funds by funding source, contrary to the intent of the P.L. 102-477 legislation; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Education is an identified federal partner according to the law, but has not entered into agreements as required by the law; and

WHEREAS: The attempts by federal agencies to undermine the intent of P.L. 102-477, and the will of Congress, damages Indian Self-Governance and Self-Determination, the 477 demonstration project and the concept of Tribal program integration; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN does hereby strongly urge the US Senate and House of Representatives to pass proposed legislation (currently Section 430 of the House Interior Appropriations bill, and a comparable provision in the House Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill) with the intent of clarifying any questions or doubts or lingering loopholes exploited by DHHS or any federal agency to the detriment of Tribal programming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports the proposed legislative amendments of the P.L. 102-477 Tribal Work Group to make P.L. 102-477 a permanent piece of federal legislation, include other federal agencies, require funding through Public Law 93-638 contracts and compacts and eliminate any audit requirements for separate accounting by funding source; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the immediate and categorical withdrawal of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Cross-Cutting Guidelines that require that tribes and tribal organizations account for programs by individual Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the permanent moratorium or cancelling of the Addendum to the 477 contracts and compacts proposed in February, 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the AFN urges the National Congress of American Indians to support and advocate to the Congress on this resolution thereby affirming the rights of tribes and tribal organizations operating under Self-Governance and Self-Determination, pursuant to NCAI Resolution #RAP-10-005.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN requests the US Senate and House of Representatives to pass proposed legislation and/or legislative amendments with the intent of strengthening an efficient and effective federal employment and training program, including Section 430 of the House Interior Appropriations bill and a comparable provision in the House Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill, and any corresponding provisions in the Senate.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL,
ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION
CHUGACHMIUT, KAWERAK
KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION,
ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS,
BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11- 42

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING OF THE DENALI COMMISSION

WHEREAS: The Denali Commission was created by an Act of Congress in October 1998, under the leadership of Senator Ted Stevens, to find new and innovative solutions to the unique infrastructure and economic development challenges in America's most remote communities; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Denali Commission is to:

- coordinate existing funding streams amongst partner agencies so that resources are more effectively deployed in rural Alaska;
- to build infrastructure and create economic opportunity in rural Alaska; and
- to insure better coordination and efficiency in spending federal resources; and

WHEREAS: The Denali Commission serves an area the size of Montana, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska combined (663,268 square miles), and ranges from rain forest to the high arctic; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska has a huge need for basic infrastructure including roads, ports, power grids, water/sewer, tank farms, clinics, internet access, much of which has been constructed in the lower 48 over the past 50-60 years with federal assistance; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska experiences unemployment rates of between 50-80%, 23% of Alaska Natives live in poverty, approximately 45% of the Alaska Native population is age 20 or less and many rural Alaskans live in 3rd world conditions; and

WHEREAS: Federal agencies frequently do not understand the issues associated with constructing projects in Alaska – the need, the cost to construct, operate and maintain facilities, the challenges associated with moving materials to the site, the short construction season, the work force, the organizational structure and relationships between various parties and may be reluctant to fund projects in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Over the past 13 years, the Denali Commission has made a tremendous difference in bringing together federal agencies and partners together to address basic infrastructure needs in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: President Obama, via Executive Order has established a White House Rural Council, the purpose of which is to:

- work across departments, agencies and offices to coordinate development of policy recommendations to promote economic prosperity and quality of life in rural America;
- make recommendations to the President on streamlining and leveraging Federal investments in rural areas to increase the impact of Federal dollars and create economic opportunities to improve the quality of life in rural America; and
- coordinate and increase the effectiveness of Federal engagement with rural stakeholders, [. . .] small businesses, education and training institutions, health-care providers, telecommunications service providers, research and land grant institutions, law enforcement, state, local and tribal governments, and non-governmental organizations regarding the needs of rural America; and

WHEREAS: The President's White House Rural Council has many of the same goals that led to the creation of the Denali Commission and rural Alaska remains in need of federal assistance; and

WHEREAS: The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary of the United States of Transportation expressed his support for the reauthorization of the Denali Commission; and

WHEREAS: Secretary LaHood was advised by the Alaska Native leadership who met with him that the transportation funds appropriated for the Denali Commission's Transportation program were sent to the Alaska Department of Transportation rather than to the Denali Commission where they should have been sent; and

WHEREAS: The Denali Commission is up for reauthorization and we fear during these economically challenging times, that the Denali Commission will not be reauthorized and coordinated federal assistance and support to rural Alaska will cease; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Government has a huge presence in Alaska: they own and manage 65% of the land and resources within the State of Alaska and manage federal waters and resources off the coast of Alaska from 3 to 200 miles out; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Government has a responsibility to advocate, advance and assist the 231 federally recognized tribes in the State of Alaska, to improve the social, educational and economic conditions of their members; and

WHEREAS: Alaska is an arctic state which gives the United States a seat at the table amongst the 8 Nations of the Arctic Council; and

WHEREAS: Because of climate change and increased resource development in the north, national and international shipping through the Bering Straits and the Arctic has increased exponentially and is expected to continue to increase and basic port, harbor, coast guard, search and rescue, support services and contaminant containment infrastructure to support national and international shipping does not exist; and

WHEREAS: Many rural Alaska communities are subject to erosion and flooding and could benefit from the assistance of the Corp of Engineers to set in place protection for their communities; and

WHEREAS: High speed internet and telecommunications systems are intermittent at best and non-existent in most locations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that AFN conveys to Congress that there is a continued need for the Denali Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we call upon our Alaska Congressional Delegation, members of Congress and the Administration to reauthorize the Denali Commission and to include language in the reauthorization such that:

- the Denali Commission can accept funds from non-federal partners, including the State of Alaska;
- the Denali Commission is empowered to eliminate waste and redundancy, to remove bureaucratic and regulatory barriers and to streamline planning, application and execution processes amongst all federal agencies and partners serving rural Alaska;
- the Denali Commission is authorized to deliver place based solutions for rural poverty and that additional commissioners from rural Alaska be appointed;
- the commissioners are clearly authorized to recommend finalists to the Secretary of Commerce for the Denali Director, and to review and approve work plans, projects, expenditure of funds, and to establish policy for the commission and programs;
- the Denali Commission is tasked with aiding rural Alaska communities to address the impacts of climate change on rural infrastructure, Coastal Zone management and coastal erosion;
- the Denali Commission is authorized to assume public debt in pursuit of financing the maintenance of rural infrastructure involving federal funds throughout Alaska; and
- the Denali Commission shall not be de-authorized so long as it has outstanding public debt.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, NORTON SOUND HEALTH
CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL
PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-43

TITLE: FEDERAL ROADS FUNDING, PROGRAMS AND ISSUES

WHEREAS: Alaska is a large state, comprising almost 1/5 of the lower contiguous states, with minimal roads infrastructure and is one of the country's last roadless regions; and,

WHEREAS: 231 of the 565 federally recognized Tribes are located in Alaska and are eligible for funding under the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program; and,

WHEREAS: The IRR Inventory drives 80% of road funding allocations to Tribes; and,

WHEREAS: IRR funding is an important tool to leverage additional sources of funds to help address rural Alaska's critical transportation needs; and,

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska requires a 9% match for State funded transportation projects and applies a project ranking system whereby rural village projects do not score well; and,

WHEREAS: As a result of this ranking system, the State rarely funds projects in village Alaska outside of airports and regional hubs; and,

WHEREAS: In FY 2010, there were 144,978.6 miles of road on the national IRR inventory of which 123,924.6 miles (85%) were in the lower 48 and 21,054 miles (14%) were in Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska Tribes and tribal consortiums have been working hard to place their existing and proposed roads and proposed primary access routes into the IRR Inventory; and,

WHEREAS: The amount of miles of transportation facilities on the inventory drives the amount of funding to each Tribe; and,

WHEREAS: The first inventory was completed in 1974, without including Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska Tribes were included into the inventory on a limited basis in 1990; and

WHEREAS: Because rural Alaska has so few constructed roads within or between the villages, Tribes depend on the inclusion of proposed roads and proposed primary access routes in the IRR inventory to generate funding; and,

WHEREAS: Proposed roads and proposed primary access routes represent a real need in rural Alaska, without the inclusion of which on the inventory for funding purposes, would result in minimal to no funding for Alaska Tribes; and,

WHEREAS: Shipping costs the Tribes and Tribal consortiums incur are equal to 41% of the total project cost, as compared to 3% in the lower 48; and,

- WHEREAS: The IRR Program Coordinating Committee (IRRPCC) is a federal advisory body established to provide input and advice to the BIA and Federal Highway Administration on the IRR Program; and,
- WHEREAS: The IRRPCC is in the process of developing recommendations that would limit the amount of funding generated by the inclusion of proposed roads and primary access routes in the inventory; and,
- WHEREAS: There is an effort by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to limit much needed Road Maintenance Program (RMP) funds through budget justification language to only those roads owned by the BIA; and,
- WHEREAS: BIA owns very little road in the State of Alaska, because the BIA has consistently required that roads constructed with BIA funding be owned and maintained by an entity other than the BIA; and,
- WHEREAS: The BIA's RMP position conflicts with its own regulations which specifically states that:
- IRR Transportation facilities may be owned by "Tribes, State, counties, local governments and the federal governments." 25 CFR 170.800,
 - describe the RMP as "covering the distribution and use of the funds provided by Congress in the annual Department of the Interior appropriations acts for maintaining transportation facilities"
 - that non-BIA transportation facilities owned by a public authority other than the BIA or the Tribe are eligible for RMP if the Tribes served by the facility feels that maintenance is required and the Tribe reaches an agreement with the owning public authority;
- WHEREAS: The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) expressly authorized the inclusion of proposed primary access routes in a Tribe's IRR inventory as long as the route is the shortest distance between two points; and,
- WHEREAS: Annual re-occurring funding was provided in SAFETEA-LU to the Denali Access Program; and,
- WHEREAS: Any limitation to funding available to the Alaska Tribes will inflict a detrimental blow to critical Tribal transportation programs; and,
- WHEREAS: The Secretary of Transportation was given authority in the last continuing resolution to discontinue funding transportation "projects" whose need has been fully met; and,
- WHEREAS: The Secretary of Transportation has determined that the Denali Transportation funding was a "project" (rather than a program), that the project has been fully funded and in FY 11, cut Transportation funding to the Denali Commission and gave it to the State of Alaska DOT; and,
- WHEREAS: The state of Alaska has an obligation to develop transportation plans that are supported by our villages to build roads between our villages; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that:

AFN call upon Alaska's Congressional Delegation to support the continued 100% funding of the cost to construct proposed roads and primary access routes in the IRR Inventory by amending Title 23 as follows: Amend Sect. 202.

(d)(2)(G)(ii)(v) by adding to the last sentence "proposed roads and primary access routes within 30 miles of the village center shall be fully funded in the Relative Need Distribution Formula for Alaskan Native Villages, or some language to that effect;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we request Alaska's Congressional delegation to include the following language in the reports accompanying the DOI appropriation act for Road Maintenance Program Funding:

The Road Maintenance Program is responsible for the distribution of funds to maintain transportation facilities, including tribal transportation facilities such as public roads, highway bridges, trails and bus stations; non-BIA transportation facilities where maintenance is required to ensure public health, safety and economy; and BIA transportation facilities as defined under 25 CFR 170.803(a)(b); The Bureau is obligated to provide the same maintenance activities to non-Bureau owned tribal transportation facilities and roads located in, or providing access to predominantly Indian and Alaska Native communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we request re-occurring funding be made available in the Highway Reauthorization bill to the Denali Commission to continue to address transportation infrastructure needs in rural Alaska and that the Denali Transportation Program be deemed an on-going program and not a project.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, NORTON SOUND HEALTH
CORPORATION BOARDS OF DIRECTORS, ASSOCIATION
OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-44

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)

WHEREAS: The Bering Strait has seen an increase in ocean vessel traffic due to the opening of the Arctic with economic development opportunities in resource development along with international scientific research and tourism. Marine Exchange of Alaska recorded 513 vessels in 3rd quarter of 2010 on the US side of the dateline and 55 on the Russian side of the dateline; and,

WHEREAS: The Port of Nome has seen an increase in ocean vessel traffic with recorded docking data since 1990 at 30 port calls with the highest dockings in 2009 at 304 port calls and 2010 at 289 port calls; and,

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska's Legislature passed HJR 22 in 2009 urging the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and,

WHEREAS: The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea permits member nations to claim an exclusive economic zone out to 200 nautical miles from shore, with an exclusive sovereign right to explore, manage, and develop all living and non-living resources within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ); and,

WHEREAS: UNCLOS establishes general obligations for safeguarding the marine environment and protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas, and creates a legal regime for controlling mineral resources exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction; and,

WHEREAS: 162 nations have ratified UNCLOS and the United States became a signatory in 1994 but has not ratified the treaty, the United States is the only Arctic Nation that has not ratified the treaty; and,

WHEREAS: Other nations are conducting resource research north of the 200 mile EEZ that is connected to the United States continental shelf; and,

WHEREAS: Until the United States ratifies UNCLOS the United States may not have the authority to promote its claims to an extended area of the continental shelf, refute the claim of authority by other nations to exercise greater control over the Arctic, or take a permanent seat on the International Seabed Authority Council; and

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

- 1) Mineral resources in the Arctic Ocean
- 2) Conducting essential scientific research

- 3) Right of the US to the use of the seas
- 4) Navigation and transit regime
- 5) Effects of the use of the seas in world economic development
- 6) Environmental protection
- 7) National security; and,

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

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Alaska State Governor and the State Legislature to be actively involved in the establishment of an Arctic Regime and urges the State of Alaska to engage the United States of America to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc, that AFN urge the United States of America to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and,

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

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC., NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-45

TITLE: RECOMMENDING CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM (CAP)

WHEREAS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been instructed by the Administration to submit funding requests at a reduced amount and is not requesting FY 2012 funding for Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) projects or studies; and,

WHEREAS: USACE Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 107 (Navigation), Section 103 (Coastal Storm Damage Reduction) and Section 14 (Emergency Streambank and Shore Protection) Section 22 (Erosion) for Fiscal Year 2012 are therefore not being funded nationwide; and,

WHEREAS: Section 116 (Coastal Erosion) is a special program authority that the Corps of Engineers uses that can successfully address many the villages health and safety issues; and,

WHEREAS: Communities across Alaska are experiencing threats from the increased intensity of storms and are threatened by the ocean and rivers as a result of the on-going evidence of a warming climate; and,

WHEREAS: The natural barriers that have protected the communities for decades are eroding, leaving them exposed and vulnerable to floods; and,

WHEREAS: Ocean traffic is increasing in Alaska's waters due the opening of the Northwest Passage, where navigational hazards exist; and,

WHEREAS: Climate change in Alaska is creating pressing needs for rural Alaskan communities due to late forming ice that typically protects shorelines; and,

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska communities rely on shipping during ice-free months for all of our oil, gas, construction materials, and much of our non-perishable consumer good; and,

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska is already at a disadvantage compared to the rest of the nation due to lack of infrastructure such as docking facilities, ports and harbors; and

WHEREAS: Many rural Alaskan communities have existing USACE projects that cannot be completed if CAP funding is cut off mid-way through the projects; and

WHEREAS: The lack of CAP funding to plan for and protect coastal communities will ultimately jeopardize the health and safety of these rural Alaskans; and,

WHEREAS: The Federal Government recognizes Alaska's 229 tribes; and,

WHEREAS: The Federal Government holds a trust responsibility to each of our tribes; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Government fixed mobile tribal communities at set points by developing school facilities and other permanent facilities based upon convenience to the Government, not recognizing safety, or sustainability issues; and,

WHEREAS: The Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment 2009 Report recommends addressing the following infrastructure deficit and critical improvements: ice navigation training; navigational charts, communication systems, port services including facilities for ship generated waste; accurate and timely ice formation (ice centers); places of refuge and icebreakers to assist in response; and,

WHEREAS: The United States should support continued development of a comprehensive Arctic marine traffic awareness system to improve monitoring and tracking of marine activity to reduce the risk of incidents, facilitate response and provide awareness of potential user conflict; and,

WHEREAS: The United States should continue to develop circumpolar environmental pollution response capabilities that are critical to protect the unique Arctic ecosystem; and,

WHEREAS: The United States should invest in hydrographic, meteorological and oceanographic data for safe navigation, update navigation charts; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN requests the USACE and the U.S. Congress to ensure that funding is including in FY 2012 appropriations for the CAP Section 107 (Navigation), Section 103 (Coastal Storm Damage Reduction), and Section 14 (Emergency Streambank and Shore Protection) and Section 116 (Coastal Erosion) and Section 22 (Erosion) programs; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN work with Alaska's Congressional Delegation, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and necessary Sub-Committees, to assure adequate funding to the Corps of Engineers to carry out not only necessary but vital work needed in our villages; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN communicate the dire need to fund the studies and construction of projects to the Corps of Engineers in Washington D.C., the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, and our regional headquarters in Hawaii.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND ASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-46

TITLE: SUPPORTING A CREATION OF A STATE FUNDED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska's Legislature has introduced HB30, An Act Relating to the Transportation Infrastructure Fund and HB31, An Act Making a Special Appropriation to the Transportation Infrastructure Fund in the Sum of \$1 billion; and,

WHEREAS: Federal funds are the primary source for construction and repair of Alaska's Highway Transportation infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS: The Highway Trust Fund reauthorization legislation has expired with continuing resolutions extending it until new legislation can be passed; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska is one of only two states that does not have a state funded capital transportation program; 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; Alaska is experiencing declining road conditions such as increased congestion, pot holes and ruts are not being repaired, and dust has become a health and safety hazard; 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 create health problems with dust; 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 State LRTP priority will focus on the National Highway System, the Alaska Highway Systems and local roads and ports and harbors; and,

WHEREAS: This priority will put a disadvantage on rural Alaska, which has many unmet needs in the form of transportation infrastructure; 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 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc, that AFN urges the State of Alaska to dedicate \$1 billion to create a state funded transportation program that results in a long-term sustainable State Funded Transportation Program to address the Alaska Highway System and local roads unmet needs.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-47

TITLE: INCLUDE RURAL ALASKA IN STATEWIDE ENERGY PRIORITIES

WHEREAS: The energy costs in rural Alaska are the highest in the nation; and,

WHEREAS: Entitlements such as the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) are limited to such an extent that their original purpose to offset energy costs is barely noticeable at today's energy costs; and,

WHEREAS: Honorable Governor Sean Parnell has demonstrated his genuine commitment to major energy priorities; and,

WHEREAS: Honorable Governor Sean Parnell and the Alaska State Legislature have just recently passed energy bills, such as Senate Bill 42, in hundreds of millions of dollars on hydroelectric projects for such projects as; the Southeast, the rail belt, and the Interior regions; and,

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature affirmed the importance of Honorable Governor Sean Parnell's statewide energy priorities by working with him in passing Senate Bill 42 and other bills related to energy relief; and,

WHEREAS: Although Governor Parnell maintains his commitment and Alaska's State Legislature has affirmed this commitment, rural Alaska remains untouched on any major energy cost relief programs and/or projects; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that we call upon our Honorable Governor Parnell and the Alaska State Legislature to extend their statewide energy priorities and passage of next round of bills to include the rural Alaska communities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the interim, Honorable Governor and the State Legislature provides immediate relief to rural Alaska communities by increasing the funding for the Power Cost Equalization Program and increasing household limits to equitably coming in line with today's unprecedented energy costs; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN urges the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to authorize amendments to the Power Cost Equalization program that holds harmless the use of Renewable Energy Resources impact on PCE reimbursements.

SUBMITTED BY: EMMONAK CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



OTHER



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-48

TITLE: RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH THE CELEBRATION OF COLUMBUS DAY IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives, American Indians, and Hawaiian Natives were the very first Americans before the arrival of Columbus or other purported to “discover America;” and,

WHEREAS: Columbus mistakenly arrived on the shores of America in 1492 and mistakenly identified the American Indians as people from the Indies; and

WHEREAS: An Essay by Jack Weatherford – Baltimore Sun, October 6, 1989

Christopher Columbus’ reputation has not survived the scrutiny of history, and today we know that he was no more the discoverer of American than Pocahontas was the discoverer of Great Britain. Native Americans had built great civilizations with many millions of people long before Columbus wandered lost into Caribbean; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urge its congressional delegation to propose a national ban on the celebration of Columbus Day and replace it with a holiday honoring the great Native American leaders who contributed to the history of this country.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-49

- TITLE:** REQUESTING PROTECTION OF CUSTOMARY TRADE FOR FISH AND GAME RESOURCES FROM ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS ACTIONS OF FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and,
- WHEREAS:** Fish and game resources are an important staple to the Alaska Native diet in all areas of the state, and is of importance to the cultural integrity of our people; and,
- WHEREAS:** The AFN recognizes the significance of customary trade by Alaska Natives and their sovereign rights to do so since time immemorial. Fish and Game products have significant customary and traditional historical roots in various areas of Alaska, and customary trade does not exist in a vacuum; it is connected to every aspect of subsistence in our communities; and,
- WHEREAS:** There is currently no accurate method of enumerating the actual customary trade harvest of fish or game resources. Despite failure to administer further research on subsistence harvests and actual sales of subsistence-harvests, the FSB seeks to limit those harvests and sales, which has potential to destroy our communities; and,
- WHEREAS:** The continued lack of an effective accurate enumeration methods may eventually lead to the demise of our fish and game resources; and,
- WHEREAS:** In her study, "Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Customary Trade of Subsistence Harvest Salmon and Yukon River, 2007, Catherine Moncrieff explained that, "the income earned through customary trade is important because there are few other cash-earning opportunities in these communities and the costs of subsistence fishing are high...Participants in all three communities reported that they money they earned through customary trade was used to sustain fish camp and their fishing lifestyle. It was repeatedly stated that, "no one is getting rich through customary trade." Thus, customary trade is not viewed in our communities as a means to generate huge profits or "significant commercial enterprise." It is simply an adaptive practice to sustain traditional ways of life; and,
- WHEREAS:** Moncrieff, in the same study, indicated that the State of Alaska has more stringent laws and regulations which allows for very limited cash transactions; and,
- WHEREAS:** The fact that Yukon River Chinook salmon has been listed as a stock of concern by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in Alaska has yet to be associated with customary trade of our Native people; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges the FSB discontinue arbitrary and capricious efforts to enforce the customary trade limitations for all fish and game resources, including the Yukon River Chinook Salmon. And the FSB and law enforcement work on documenting and enumerating customary trade or fish and game resources before taking unnecessary actions against Alaska Natives; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advise the Congressional Delegation and FSB to commission tribes to administer further research on subsistence harvests and actual sales of subsistence-harvested Chinook salmon or other game resources before setting a specific dollar limitation or precluding customary trade with non-rural residents.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



SUSPENSION OF THE RULES



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-50

TITLE: ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: Almost all able-bodied Alaska Native men and woman throughout Alaska were drafted or enlisted in the military before and after statehood; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Veterans' needs are being forgotten or ignored; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Veterans need proper representation on the AFN Board of Directors to represent all Alaska Native Veterans; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN seat an Alaska Native Veteran on the AFN Board of Directors to ensure proper representation for Alaska Native Veterans.

SUBMITTED BY: LARRY GORDAOFF

CONVENTION ACTION: REFER TO THE AFN LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-51

- TITLE:** STATEWIDE SMOKEFREE WORKPLACES TO PROTECT TRIBAL CITIZENS FROM THE DANGERS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native and the non-Alaska Native people have the highest rate of tobacco use in the state of Alaska; and,
- WHEREAS:** Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and Alaska Native people and non-Native people suffer serious health consequences including heart disease and cancer; and,
- WHEREAS:** Secondhand tobacco smoke exposure is another leading cause of preventable death, and causes disease in health non-smokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and cancer; and,
- WHEREAS:** It has been determined by the U.S. Surgeon General that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, air ventilation systems do not work, and that only completely smoke free environments can protect health; and,
- WHEREAS:** A significant amount of secondhand smoke exposure for Alaska Native and non Alaska Native adults and children occurs in the workplace and even short exposures may result in serious adverse health effects and even death; and,
- WHEREAS:** Smoke free workplace laws protect people from secondhand smoke, reduce tobacco use overall, support healthy lifestyles, model healthy behavior, and support quit attempts; and,
- WHEREAS:** The health of our people is of utmost importance and Alaska Native and non-Alaska Native people have taken a lead in addressing health issues throughout the years; and,
- WHEREAS:** Smoke free workplaces will protect the health of our children, grandchildren, families, and community members; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN support statewide smoke free workplaces to protect Alaska Native and non-Alaska Naïve people from the known dangers of secondhand smoke.

- SUBMITTED BY:** LINCOLN BEAN, JR.
- COMMITTEE ACTION:** DO PASS
- CONVENTION ACTION:** AMENDED AND PASSED

