



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-31

- TITLE:** URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA AND UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE ADVANCING ARCTIC POLICY INITIATIVES TO MAINTAIN A CONTINUED FOCUS ON THE ARCTIC
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Throughout history and in contemporary times, Alaska Native communities have engaged with indigenous peoples across the Arctic in complex economic, cultural and social systems, and we welcome and celebrate the interest in Arctic policy by the State of Alaska and the United States Government; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States Government became an Arctic nation when it purportedly purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867 and its Arctic policy involvement has fluctuated since, with substantial engagement on Arctic policy initiatives in recent years through actions such as the publication of the National Security Presidential Directive 66/Homeland Security Presidential Directive 25 on January 9, 2009, adoption of the National Strategy for the Arctic Region in May 2013, creation of the Arctic Executive Steering Committee by the Executive Order Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic of January 21, 2015, assumption of the two-year rotating chairship of the Arctic Council on April 24, 2015, the unprecedented presidential visit to Anchorage, Dillingham and Kotzebue by President Obama in September 2015, the hosting of the first-ever White House Arctic Science Ministerial on September 28, 2016; and
- WHEREAS:** Arctic Executive Steering Committee provides guidance to executive departments and enhances coordination of Federal Arctic policies across agencies, offices, and with State, local, Alaska Native tribal government, Alaska Native organizations, academic and research institutions, and the private and nonprofit sectors; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska increased its participation in Arctic policy development through initiatives such as the Alaska Northern Waters Task force established by the Legislature in 2010 to identify opportunities to increase the State's involvement in Arctic issues and the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission established by the Legislature in 2012 to develop an Arctic policy and implementation plan for the State; and

WHEREAS: The Arctic is of such vital long-term importance to national security, economic development, ecological diversity, and cultural heritage that a continued focus on the Arctic remains critical through transitions of leadership, fiscal challenges, and among the sea of other policy priorities demanding attention; and

WHEREAS: With the transition of leadership at the State and national levels and increased competition for financial resources, there is a risk that Arctic policy will not receive due attention and that progress made in recent years to elevate and advance pressing Arctic issues will retrogress.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that their message of gratitude and appreciation for the elevation and advancement of Arctic policy issues be conveyed to the State of Alaska and the United States Government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates urge the State of Alaska and the United States Government to continue to strive to be world leaders in all matters related to the Arctic, that the United States continue the coordination of Arctic policy efforts through the White House Arctic Executive Steering Committee, and that both governments meaningfully partner with and engage indigenous peoples in Arctic policy work to continue the momentum developed to date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

SUBMITTED BY:	COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
BOARD ACTION:	PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President