



# 2015 ANNUAL AFN CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

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## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-1**

**TITLE:** THANKING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA FOR VISITING RURAL ALASKA

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** from August 31 to September 2, 2015, President Barack Obama made a historic three-day trip to Alaska, including stops in Anchorage, Seward, Dillingham and Kotzebue as well as a fly over of Civilian; and

**WHEREAS** President Obama acknowledged the need to take action to increase the resiliency of rural Alaskan communities by increasing resources available to all affected communities within Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** President Obama was the first sitting U.S. President to visit rural Alaska or travel above the Arctic Circle; and

**WHEREAS** the delegates to the 2015 AFN Annual Convention are proud of our Alaska Native cultures, our sustainable resources, and our subsistence way of life, and are pleased to have been able to show President Obama some small part of this.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN expresses its profound appreciation and thanks to President Barack Obama for his historic visit to Alaska.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**SUBMITTED BY:** BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION AND THE NORTHWEST ALASKA VILLAGES

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** PASSED

**CONVENTION ACTION:** PASSED AS AMENDED

  
Julie Kitka  
President



# Subsistence





**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-2**

**TITLE:** CALL FOR ADVANCEMENT OF MEANINGFUL ALASKA NATIVE CO-MANAGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR ALL OF ALASKA

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** Alaska Native hunting and fishing practices, including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game, and other resources and the ceremonies that accompany these practices are essential to the social, cultural, spiritual, and economic wellbeing and survival of the Alaska Native people; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Natives have served as stewards for thousands of years maintaining healthy and productive ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Natives and their tribal governments, tribal consortiums, non-profits, and Corporations have immense knowledge, skills, and abilities to effectively and productively manage traditional fish and wildlife resources for the improvement of habitat and resource populations which will undoubtedly benefit all of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska's current federal-state dual management is failing to adequately manage resources to meet the traditional and customary needs and practices of Alaska Native peoples; and

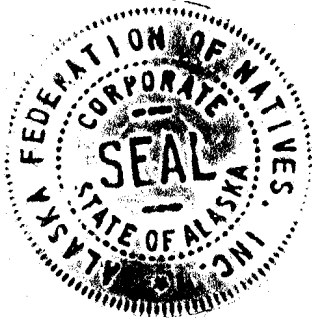
**WHEREAS** the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, and the Governor of Alaska have recognized that meaningful Alaska Native participation in the management of traditional wildlife resources can provide for improved health of ecosystems and fish and wildlife populations, and they have called for the advancement and increase in co-management in Alaska.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN calls for the state of Alaska and the Department of Interior to provide for an Alaska Native equal role in management of traditional fish and wildlife resources through the advancement of an increase in implementation of co-management projects.

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

SUBMITTED BY:  
COMMITTEE ACTION:  
CONVENTION ACTION:

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES  
PASSED  
PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie E. Kitka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Resolution 15-3**

**TITLE:** CALLING FOR AN EQUAL ROLE OF THE YUKON RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION IN UNIFIED MANAGEMENT FOR THE RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION OF YUKON RIVER KING SALMON

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Alaska Native hunting and fishing practices, including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game, and other resources and the ceremonies which accompany these practices are essential to the social, cultural, spiritual, and economic well-being and survival of the Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS the tribes/first nations of the Yukon River and its tributaries stand united to proclaim that traditional fisheries are inextricably tied to their cultural, nutritional, social, economic and spiritual well-being and way of life; recognizing their responsibility and authority to exercise our tribal rights as stewards to our traditional territories and resources; and

WHEREAS since time immemorial, they have properly cared for the fisheries of the Yukon River and its tributaries, but for the past 100 years the U.S., Canada, and state of Alaska have usurped management with no deference to tribal governments resulting in the collapse of the Yukon King Salmon fishery; and

WHEREAS Yukon salmon stocks are in a sustained period of steep decline, resulting in years of severe restrictions and closures of fishing opportunities that have prevented tribal members from meeting their essential customary and traditional, cultural, spiritual, nutritional, and economic needs; and

WHEREAS the tribes of the Yukon River and tributaries are united in a commitment to conserve, restore, and provide for tribal use of fisheries based on indigenous knowledge systems, and scientific principles. Founded on tribal unity, and striving for consensus, they formed the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission for the health and wellbeing of their tribal members, their future generations, and all Alaskans and Canadians who rely upon the health of the fisheries; and

WHEREAS no state or federal agency, and no group of users, have a greater stake in management of the Yukon River salmon stocks, or a broader base of knowledge and understanding, than the Tribal governments and Tribal members who, like their

countless ancestors since time immemorial before them, reside in the Yukon River Drainage and Tributaries.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN recognizes the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission as the true stewards of the Yukon River King Salmon, sacrificing for the future health of the Salmon and their people. In 2014, they called for a self-imposed Yukon King fishing moratorium, and again sacrificing in 2015 with little to no traditional King Salmon harvest. Due to this sacrifice, for the first time in over a decade the US met their escapement goal to Canada in 2014, and then exceeded their escapement goal in 2015, all to ensure the continued existence of the Yukon River King Salmon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports the establishment of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and all necessary federal legislation that creates an equal role in management; the inclusion of representation of the YRITFC and the Tribal Chinook Management Plan in the Yukon River Treaty Process; and truly unified management for the conservation and restoration of Yukon River King Salmon.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE AND THE ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-4**

**TITLE:** REQUESTING CHANGES TO THE MAGNUSON STEVENS ACT

**WHEREAS** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** the Alaska Federation of Natives fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS** the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) governs management of fisheries within the United States 'Exclusive Economic Zone' from three to two hundred nautical miles offshore; and

**WHEREAS** fisheries and marine resources and habitat are important sources of nutrition and essential parts of the culture, diet, and economy for Alaska's federally recognized tribes. Marine fish, shellfish and plants are critical resources for subsistence harvests, and marine habitats support a broad variety of species which are essential to subsistence; and

**WHEREAS** the fisheries 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 MSA requires fishery catch limits be set based on science; and

**WHEREAS** the MSA established a system of eight regional management Councils to make recommendation to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce regarding management of fisheries in federal waters offshore; and

**WHEREAS** the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) has management authority over fisheries off the coast of Alaska and consists of 11 members; and

**WHEREAS** the NPFMC makes decisions which impact Alaska tribes and subsistence dramatically, yet Alaska's tribes do not have secure representation on the Council; and

**WHEREAS** the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is currently applicable to all decisions made by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and is critical to providing opportunities for tribal and public participation in the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS the NPFMC manages salmon bycatch in the trawl fisheries in accordance with the MSA, and bycatch reduction is not strictly required in the current Act; and

WHEREAS the current language of the MSA does not allow federal fishery disaster declarations for subsistence fisheries and tribes cannot request and receive disaster relief directly; and

WHEREAS the regional fishery management councils are not required to conduct government-to-government consultations with tribes; and

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a bill this year that does not provide for tribal representation on the NPFMC, weakens the applicability of NEPA to fishery management decisions and does not mandate reductions in bycatch. The U.S. Senate is expected to continue the reauthorization process with its own bill.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN seeks the following changes to the MSA in the reauthorization:

- Provide for tribal representation on the NPFMC by:
- Add a voting member to the NPFMC under 16 USC § 1852 (b). This member will be nominated directly by Alaska’s tribes and appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.
- Include tribal subsistence in the list of user groups amongst whom the Secretary must maintain a balanced apportionment under 16 USC § 1852(b) (2) (B).
- Maintain the status quo for application of NEPA to fisheries decision-making, under which fishery management Councils must fully comply with the requirements of NEPA.
- Develop catch limit requirements using tribal traditional knowledge and science-based knowledge in the MSA.
- Mandate reductions in bycatch by strengthening national Standard 9, which currently only requires by catch reduction “to the extent practicable.”
- Amend disaster relief provisions to include subsistence fishery failures and allow tribes to request and receive disaster relief directly (16 USC § 1861(a)).
- Require regional fishery management councils to consult with tribal governments directly.

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

SUBMITTED BY: Tanana Chiefs Conference and Doyon  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15 -5**

**TITLE:** ALASKA'S ABORIGINAL CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY AND PRIORITY RIGHT TO  
SUBSISTENCE HUNT, FISH, TRAP, AND HARVEST

**WHEREAS** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 platform of the entire Alaska Native community; and

**WHEREAS** the indigenous Native people of Alaska have been subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS** subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering is at the core of the physical, spiritual, cultural, and traditional life-being of all Alaska Native people; and

**WHEREAS** subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering should be recognized and protected by the state as a priority human right afforded to all of Alaska's Native people; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Constitution should be amended to recognize and preserve the heritage of Alaska's aboriginal citizens' opportunity and priority right to subsistence hunt, harvest wild birds, fish, game, marine mammals, plants, and berries; and

**WHEREAS** the opportunity to harvest wild birds, fish, game, marine mammals, plants and berries is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the aboriginal citizens of the state of Alaska and does not create a right to trespass on private property, diminish other private rights, or diminish the duty of the state to manage wild birds, fish, and game in such a manner that ensures adequate populations and sustained use; and

**WHEREAS** subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering continues to constitute the vital and necessary nutritional, spiritual, and cultural foundation of Alaska's Native peoples and our modern indigenous cultures; and

**WHEREAS** subsistence use is of a cultural and historical significance integral to the uniqueness and identity of the origins of the state of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** sport hunters traveling to our villages frequently do not share many of these limitations and often displace local opportunity and negatively affect the health of our subsistence resources.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to approve and adopt a proposal to amend the Alaska Constitution by recognizing and preserving the heritage of Alaska's

aboriginal citizens' opportunity and priority right to subsistence hunt, harvest wild birds, fish, game, marine mammals, plants and berries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposal to amend the Alaska Constitution be submitted to the voters of the state of Alaska at the next general election for approval.

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

SUBMITTED BY:

UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION:

PASSED

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President





**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-6**

**TITLE:** URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO INCLUDE LOSS OF SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES AS A DISASTER CATEGORY AND TO INSTITUTE FOOD SECURITY RELIEF WHEN ECONOMIC DISASTERS ARE DECLARED DUE TO LOW HARVEST OF SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** the indigenous peoples of Alaska's communities have for centuries relied on the land, air, and waters to provide for locally harvested sustainable natural resources such as moose, birds, caribou, walrus, whales, seals, and fish that are central to our existence including meeting our physical, nutritional, spiritual, and cultural needs; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska's communities are increasingly facing climatic changes resulting in diminishing and deteriorating natural resource conditions that animals depend on for resting, foraging, reproducing, calving, and nursing; and

**WHEREAS** climate change has resulted in disaster declarations that include both categories of natural disasters and economic disasters; and the latter declaration category does not factor in a mechanism to restore immediate food security to communities impacted by low harvests of fish, wildlife, and game resources; and

**WHEREAS** diminishing environmental conditions that reduce accessibility for subsistence hunters to access healthy animal populations, such as changing ice conditions, threaten our subsistence way of life; and

**WHEREAS** climate change also alters traditional subsistence harvesting areas and hunting strategies which result in hunting in an unsafe environment and leads to food security concerns; and

**WHEREAS** food insecurities have prompted several communities to announce substantially lower harvests of animals during the 2013 and 2015 hunting season due to unusual weather and unsafe sea ice conditions; and

**WHEREAS** the economic impact of these historically low harvests is catastrophic for communities dependent on them for sustenance and for the rich resource of materials for traditional handicrafts, resulting in disasters that threaten the health and welfare of communities, and they qualify as "economic disasters" under the state definitions; and

WHEREAS when the Governor declares an “economic disaster,” for a community, there are no mechanisms to institute to provide a guaranteed steady minimal supply of food under this category; and

WHEREAS numerous factors have combined to create an urgent need for a “subsistence” disaster declaration as our ability to prepare for any disaster is limited which often leads to exhausting our own local resources to mitigate the cultural, social, and economic impacts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN requests the state of Alaska include and provide immediate relief for loss of subsistence resources as part of an economic disaster until the state establishes a new category and mechanisms to provide food security and relief for a “subsistence” disaster declaration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests the state of Alaska establish a disaster response team or task force to develop adaptation or resiliency plans for communities who seek assistance when low subsistence harvests result in disasters, regardless of what category the disaster falls under.

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
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-7**

**TITLE:** REQUESTING STATE ACTION TO ADDRESS CONFLICTS BETWEEN VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND SPORTS HUNTERS AND TO ENSURE MEANINGFUL SUBSISTENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VILLAGE RESIDENTS

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 subsistence is the foundation of Alaska Native cultures and the mainstay of food security in Native villages; and

WHEREAS subsistence harvests have been marginalized, both by competing users of fish and game, and by ineffective and irreconcilable federal and state management regimes; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives have relied on fish and game for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS many peoples were traditionally nomadic, moving widely across the landscape to gather the fish and game resources necessary for survival, and those resources continue to be critical source of nutrition and cultural strength; and

WHEREAS we honor the teaching of our ancestors, and still observe the traditional practices that have defined Alaska Natives as a people, including a primary dependence on fish and game, restraint in not overharvesting, and recognition that any human disturbance can cause reduction in number and health of our fish and game resources; and

WHEREAS given the overwhelming reliance on subsistence resources, reduction in opportunity and success causes direct and extreme cultural and nutritional hardship for entire communities; and

WHEREAS access to hunting and fishing grounds by village residents has become increasingly difficult with geographic and economic limitations, such as the extremely high, and still rising cost of local fuel as well as other necessary equipment and supplies; and

WHEREAS sport hunters traveling to our villages frequently do not share many of these limitations and often displace local opportunity and negatively affect the health of our subsistence resources; and

WHEREAS inadequately-regulated transporter access, aircraft over-flights, and ground-based activities associated with sport hunting divert game away from our traditional

hunting grounds, and out of the safe and economical reach of local subsistence users, thereby causing significant community hardship; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Board of Game, the Alaska State Legislature, and federal agencies have taken insufficient steps to halt the ongoing and increasing disruption of subsistence hunting opportunities by transporters, sport hunters, and their associated activities, and the state of Alaska and the Federal Subsistence Board must provide for meaningful and consistent subsistence harvest opportunities necessary for Alaska Native communities' continued culture and physical survival.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 Annual Alaska Federation of Natives convention that AFN urges the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Board of Game, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Federal Subsistence Board to immediately develop a comprehensive sport hunting management plan in full consultation with affected federally recognized tribes, tribal nonprofits, and ANCSA Corporations and open and maintain a consistent and structured dialogue with representatives of those rural villages and regional authorities most impacted by these issues to develop a strategy for responsible management, including strict enforcement of state/federal trespassing and hunting laws for the management of the access and activities of non-local hunters that will ensure the opportunity necessary to provide fully for these villages' subsistence way of life.

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

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BOARD ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President

## **HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE**



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-8**

**TITLE:** SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION SUPPLEMENTAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, THE SENIOR CITIZEN DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, AND THE WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 platform of the entire Alaska Native community through advocacy before the U.S. Congress and other federal, state, and local forums; and

**WHEREAS** safe, healthy and affordable housing is the very foundation for sustainable, healthy communities; and

**WHEREAS** private sector housing construction and development in rural Alaska is almost non-existent; and

**WHEREAS** tribes and regional housing authorities (RHA) have an established record of effectively partnering with the state of Alaska, non-profit agencies, and private sector investors to leverage state and federal funding to provide critically needed housing services across the state; and

**WHEREAS** partnerships between tribes, housing authorities and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) is critical to the successful delivery of housing programs and services in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** the Supplemental Grant Program, the Senior Citizen Development Fund Program and the Weatherization Program are a proven, wise investment of state funds and combined with matching federal funds, provide a critical boost to struggling local economies throughout the state. This funding creates hundreds of jobs, and results in millions of dollars in new infrastructure and construction related purchases in both rural and urban Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** the Supplemental Grant Program has been incredibly valuable in terms of leveraging federal and private dollars to meet these critical needs in both rural and urban Alaska by providing a match of up to 20% of the total development costs for energy efficiency, water and sewer, electrical distribution and access roads on U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)/Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) funded projects; and

**WHEREAS** the Weatherization Program has been overwhelmingly successful in meeting several important Association of Alaska Housing Authorities (AAHA) and Alaska State

Legislature objectives, including providing the means to implement the most cost effective method of addressing significant rural energy issues; stimulating significant job creation; providing a major stimulus to the local cash economies of rural Alaska; and significantly reducing the use of and dependence by local communities on fossil fuels, with participants experiencing a reduction of energy usage and costs in individual homes by 30-40% on average; and

WHEREAS Alaska’s RHAs are experiencing increasing pressure to address the housing needs of the state’s rapidly increasing senior population and the AHFC Senior Citizens Housing Development Fund (SCHDF) was created for the purpose of providing funding to qualified organizations to develop senior citizen housing; and

WHEREAS providing quality senior housing greatly reduces the potential state financial burden in terms of health care and other senior related costs, such as assisted living; and statistics have verified the cost-effectiveness of the program; and the SCHDF has historically been an important, and sometimes a “make-or-break” component in making many senior projects possible.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that, notwithstanding the difficult fiscal issues facing the state, the Alaska State Legislature continue to invest in critical housing infrastructure, jobs and the health and welfare of its most needy citizens by supporting funding for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation’s Supplemental Housing Development Grant Program, the Senior Citizen Development Grant Program, and the Weatherization Program, in the amounts of \$3 million for each of these critical programs.

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; ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-9**

**TITLE:** URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXEMPT APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT FROM SEQUESTER, RESCISSION, AND OTHER POTENTIAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD FUNDING REDUCTIONS IN FY 2016 AND BEYOND

**WHEREAS** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** The U.S. Congress acknowledged in the passage of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) that “there exists a unique relationship between the Government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes and a unique federal responsibility to Indian people”; and

**WHEREAS** The U.S. Congress further acknowledged in the passage of NAHASDA that it “has assumed a trust responsibility for the protection and preservation of Indian tribes and for working with tribes and their members to improve their housing conditions and socioeconomic status so that they are able to take greater responsibility for their own economic condition”; and

**WHEREAS** NAHASDA recognizes that “the need for affordable homes in safe and healthy environments on Indian reservations, in Indian communities, and in Native Alaskan villages is acute” and that “providing affordable homes in safe and healthy environments is an essential element in the special role of the United States in helping tribes and their members to improve their housing conditions and socioeconomic status”; and

**WHEREAS** tribes across the United States have effectively used NAHASDA funding to address the acute housing needs of American Indian and Alaska Native people, as indicated by a 2010 report of the U.S. Government Accountability Office noting that NAHASDA recipients constructed 13,141 new homes, acquired 4,611 existing homes, and rehabilitated more than 32,000 homes between 2003 and 2008 alone; and

**WHEREAS** despite the success of NAHASDA, the housing needs of Native Americans remain greater than those of non-Natives, as demonstrated by U.S. Census data from 2007 indicating that 28% of Native households were overcrowded or lacked adequate plumbing and kitchen facilities, compared to just 5.4% of households nationally; and



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

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

WHEREAS adjusting a \$650 million appropriation for the cumulative impact of inflation since 1998 (using the Social Security inflation rate) leaves recipients with the purchasing power approximately 50% of that amount (\$325 - \$335M); and

WHEREAS Any further reductions in NAHASDA funding will greatly inhibit the ability of NAHASDA recipients to address the ongoing shortage of safe, affordable housing in the communities they serve; and

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

WHEREAS any further reduction to NAHASDA funding would be inconsistent with the expressly assumed trust responsibilities of the federal government.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN does hereby urge the U.S. Congress to exempt appropriations under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act from sequester, rescission, and other potential across-the-board funding reductions in FY 2016 and beyond.

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; ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-10**

**TITLE:** SUPPORT FULL FUNDING FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) created the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) and the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) which is the primary source of funding for affordable housing for Alaska Native and American Indian families; and

**WHEREAS** NAHASDA allocates approximately \$98 million each year to Alaskan tribes and communities; and

**WHEREAS** NAHASDA empowers tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs), also known as regional housing authorities (RHAs), with local decision making which enables the creation of housing programs that are specific to each region or community; and

**WHEREAS** private sector housing construction and development in rural Alaska is almost non-existent; and

**WHEREAS** tribes and RHAs have an established record of effectively partnering with the state of Alaska, non-profit agencies, and private sector investors to leverage NAHASDA funds; and

**WHEREAS** tribes and RHAs, on an average annual basis, have used NAHASDA funds to construct 190 new homes (\$45 million), rehabilitate 740 existing homes (\$20 million), weatherize 1,220 homes (\$23 million), employ 1,145 full-time jobs (\$57 million), pay Alaskan businesses and contractors for services (\$84 million), thereby contributing to our rural economies; and

**WHEREAS** U.S. Census data has consistently documented that Native households were overcrowded or lacked adequate plumbing and kitchen facilities by a factor of four to five times the national average; and

**WHEREAS** Indian housing is not merely a federal entitlement or "discretionary program," but has its roots in a solemn trust responsibility to Indian nations and peoples; and

WHEREAS safe, healthy and affordable housing is the very foundation for sustainable, healthy communities and the underpinning for most, if not all, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) programs; and therefore should be given equal consideration in federal budget deliberations; and

WHEREAS it must be noted that public housing appears to consistently receive greater consideration for increases within the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) budget relative to Indian housing and in fiscal year (FY) 2015 appropriations, BIA received an overall increase of 3% and IHS a 5% increase while NAHASDA remained "flat-lined" at \$650 million or less; and

WHEREAS adjusting a \$650 million appropriation for the cumulative impact of inflation since 1998 (using the Social Security inflation rate) leaves recipients with the purchasing power approximately 50% of that amount (\$325 - \$335M); and

WHEREAS an adjustment for inflation requires an appropriation of no less than \$960 million.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urge the President and Congress of the United States fund the IHBG Program at no less than \$700 million for FY 2016, and provide consistent, substantial increases in subsequent fiscal years of not less than \$50 million each year until the program has at a minimum recovered its inflationary losses.

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; ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



*Julie E. Kitka*  
Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-11**

**TITLE:** MANDATING THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION REGARDING THE USE OF HEROIN, SPICE AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS IN RURAL ALASKA AND ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES AND THE FULL ENFORCEMENT OF STATE AND FEDERAL DRUG LAWS

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 anecdotal information suggests that the abuse of heroin, spice and other dangerous drugs in rural Alaska has become worse in the past few years, judging from arrests, deaths, and word of mouth in our communities; and

WHEREAS heroin in particular is a relatively new problem in rural Alaska and its use in recent years appears to have been exacerbated in part by the over-prescription of legal pain medications, and by accessibility and the relative ease of transporting heroin into rural areas; and

WHEREAS there is little or no hard data to substantiate the extent of heroin use in rural Alaska, which makes it difficult to obtain funding or develop strategies to combat the problem.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the state and federal governments to fund research and data collection regarding the extent of heroin and other drug use in rural Alaska and all federally recognized tribes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state of Alaska, municipal governments, and school districts adopt laws and policies permitting all individuals who are in a position to assist a person at risk of opioid overdose to obtain and administer naloxone and promoting the ready availability of naloxone to all first responders and in all schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state of Alaska adopt laws and regulations that all persons, entities, and enterprises that knowingly participate in the transportation, sale, or other distribution of heroin in a community are strictly, jointly, severally, and civilly liable to any person who uses, on even one occasion, heroin, obtained in the community for the injuries suffered by the person and to the federally recognized tribe for that community for the civil penalty in the amount of \$500,000; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the full enforcement of state and federal drug laws.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-12**

**TITLE:** URGING THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND REGIONAL DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS IN ALASKA

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** anecdotal information suggests that the abuse of heroin and other dangerous drugs in all of Alaska and in the communities of recognized tribes have become worse in the past few years, judging from arrests, deaths, and word of mouth in our communities; and

**WHEREAS** heroin in particular is a relatively new problem in rural Alaska, and its use in recent years appears to have been exacerbated in part by the over-prescription of legal pain medications, and by accessibility and the relative ease of transporting heroin into rural areas; and

**WHEREAS** there are very few programs specifically for drug addiction in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** the key for effective treatment for Alaska Natives is culturally appropriate regional centers located close to home.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the state and federal governments to fund regional drug treatment centers in Alaska.

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Bristol Bay Native Association  
**COMMITTEE ACTION:** PASSED  
**CONVENTION ACTION:** PASSED AS AMENDMED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-13**

**TITLE:** URGING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR MONITORING PARALYTIC SHELLFISH POISONING THROUGHOUT ALASKA’S COASTAL WATERS

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) responsibilities include monitoring, analyzing and reporting on the environment and has provided limited grant funding to coastal Alaska communities monitoring paralytic shellfish poisoning for the past nine years; and

WHEREAS Alaska is home to 229 of the 566 federally recognized tribes in the United States, or about 140,000 American Indian and Alaska Natives – most of which depend upon the ocean’s productivity for subsistence foods and economic success; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native survival depends on the bountiful resources of the land and subsistence hunting and fishing has been a continuing concern for Alaska Natives for many thousands of years and the Alaska Native subsistence way of life depends on healthy ocean ecosystems; and

WHEREAS increased temperatures promote harmful algal blooms in Alaska, yet temperatures across the state have increased by an average of 3.4°F – with winter warming even greater (rising by an average of 6.3°F). The rate of warming was twice the national average over that same period, and average annual temperatures in Alaska are projected to increase an additional 3.5 to 7°F by the middle of this century; and

WHEREAS waters in the North Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Alaska, and Bering Sea are experiencing the greatest temperature increase ever recorded; and

WHEREAS Alexandrium, the organism that produces PSP and indiscriminately can kill people and marine birds, mammals, and fish, is a worsening environmental problem and public health threat; and

WHEREAS the 2015 event created a bloom spreading from northern Mexico to the Bering Sea causing tremendous economic loss due to closure of commercial shellfish and salmon fisheries in many areas; and

WHEREAS an expansive PSP event swept through the Gulf of Alaska this summer bringing very high PSP levels to many Aleutian Island sampling stations, exceeding the U.S. Food and Drug Administration limit for PSP is 80 micrograms/100 grams; and

WHEREAS Alaska's 2015 PSP results for Sand Point (butter clams collected 6/8) had toxin levels of 6,580 micrograms/100 grams, King Cove (mussels collected 4/24) had toxin levels of 333 micrograms/100 grams, Kasitsna Bay (little neck clams collected 5/18) had toxin levels 85.7 micrograms/100grams, and Pauloff Harbor (butter clams collected 5/16) had toxin levels of 336 micrograms/100 grams; and

WHEREAS the 2014 event created a bloom covering much of the Gulf of Alaska with the highest paralytic shellfish poisoning readings ever recorded in Alaska at 21,600 micrograms/100 grams; and

WHEREAS bivalves (clams, mussels, oysters, scallops) sold at wholesale and retail markets require PSP testing and are considered safe for human consumption, but crabs or shrimp are not regularly tested for PSP risking human life and threats to the fishery; and

WHEREAS paralytic shellfish poisoning pathways include through zooplankton, forage fish to their predators such as Yukon River king salmon, Aleutian Islands' sea lions (listed as endangered) and many other important species; and

WHEREAS a pilot sentinel program has been supported in the Aleutian Islands by the Environmental Protection Agency and has been credited with saving lives and preparing people for the more dramatic environmental changes to come; and

WHEREAS a statewide program encompassing all coastal communities will help people make safe choices on where and when to collect their subsistence foods.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the EPA to implement an Alaska coast-wide harmful algal bloom sentinel program from Metlakatla to Kaktovik.

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  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President





**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-14**

**TITLE:** URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO EXPAND CONTRACTING AND COMPACTING OF SERVICES TO ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** residents of the state of Alaska are increasingly benefitting from the efficient and effective service delivery available through Alaska Native organizations statewide; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Native organizations have a successful and lengthy track record of service delivery, and are becoming increasingly looked upon nationally and even internationally as models to replicate; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Native organizations are resourceful, able to leverage funding, and innovative in overcoming extreme obstacles to deliver quality services; and

**WHEREAS** both the federal and state governments are faced with fiscal challenges and legislators and administrators are being expected to deliver more services with fewer funds available, requiring creative problem-solving and resource allocation; and

**WHEREAS** the state of Alaska already partners with Alaska Native organizations to deliver services, either through grants or contracts, such as the Village Public Safety Officer Program, Head Start, and other programs; and

**WHEREAS** in some areas, for over 50 years, Alaska Native organizations have been providing services for the state of Alaska under contract, and have a long and successful track record as contractors benefitting state residents; and

**WHEREAS** since 1992, when the federal government initiated a demonstration project providing tribes and tribal consortia the opportunity to contract and operate certain federal programs, the tribes and tribal consortia who have entered into agreements with the federal government have proven that this system reduces costs, eliminates bureaucracy, and improves service delivery; and

**WHEREAS** expansion of contracting and compacting opportunities to Alaska Native organizations is fiscally prudent and will improve services to the residents of Alaska; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native organizations are sophisticated, qualified, prepared, and eager to accept more responsibility for providing services in Alaska; and

WHEREAS expanding contracting and compacting opportunities to Alaska Native organizations will result in:

- Reduction of costs to the state of Alaska and the federal government
- Reduction of duplication of efforts
- Reduction of overhead expenses
- Increased leveraging of resources
- Streamlined administration of services
- Improved service delivery for Alaskans

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN requests the state of Alaska to establish a task force comprised of state of Alaska and Alaska Native organization leaders to identify state of Alaska services that could be contracted or compacted to Alaska Native organizations, and require the task force to develop a recommended plan of action to the state of Alaska executive and legislative branches for implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor's Office work with Alaska Native tribal organizations and federally recognized tribes that have a resolution from their tribes to develop a pilot project to test the current opportunities for consolidated funding within departments, including but not limited to Alaska Health and Social Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests the federal government expand contracting and compacting opportunities for federal services beyond the current limited departments and funding types or services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports immediate passage of bills that will make the federal contracting and compacting opportunities referred to above a permanent program, expand the agencies and types of funding permitted to be consolidated, allow for 100% recovery of indirect costs, and resolve technical process issues that have limited opportunities for maximum success of these programs.

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
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-15**

**TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL ALASKA

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** Alaska ranks last in water and sewer infrastructure in the country; and

**WHEREAS** one-fifth of communities in rural Alaska and 31 villages are un-served by water and sewer services; and

**WHEREAS** the rate of hospitalization for pneumonia, influenza, skin infections, and lower respiratory tract infections is multiple times higher for Alaska Native infants in communities with inadequate sanitation services compared to similar communities with adequate facilities and the general U.S. population; and

**WHEREAS** Healthy Alaskans 2020 has set a target of increasing the proportion of rural households with in-home water and wastewater services to 87% of Alaska's rural communities; and

**WHEREAS** the estimated need to address water and sewer needs in rural Alaska is over \$670 million; and

**WHEREAS** residents of rural Alaska have the same right to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities as their fellow citizens in other states.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges Congress to increase funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Alaska Native Village Grant program and Environmental Protection Agency Alaska Native Village Grant program and for the state of Alaska to continue to provide its 25% matching funds for these programs.

**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; ALASKA  
NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-16**

**TITLE:** SUPPORT GREATER RESOURCES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING ENFORCEMENT AND URGE THE STATE OF ALASKA TO INCREASE ITS PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Alaska Native people, both individuals and families, are significantly affected by the abuse of alcohol and drugs; and

WHEREAS the high number of assaults, suicides, and other deaths related to substance abuse are devastating to Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS the increasing importation and distribution of dangerous substances – including black tar heroin, spice, and methamphetamines – into rural communities by air, sea, and land has created an epidemic in communities across Alaska; and

WHEREAS there are very limited resources available for treatment and enforcement along with challenges to implementing necessary tribal jurisdiction and tribal alternatives to the state justice and correctional system policies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges support for additional resources for substance abuse treatment and anti-trafficking enforcement activities, and urge the state of Alaska to reform and increase its prevention, treatment, and enforcement efforts.

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;  
ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM  
**COMMITTEE ACTION:** PASSED  
**CONVENTION ACTION:** PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-17**

**TITLE:** SUPPORT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CHILDREN AND ENDORSE THE TOXIC-FREE CHILDREN'S ACT

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** in 2000, AFN 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 passed Resolution EY-17 in support of the elimination of persistent pollutants that threaten our health and the health of future generations; and

**WHEREAS** in 2011, AFN passed Resolution 11-03 in support of protecting the health of present and future generations by preventing toxic exposures through chemicals policy reform; and

**WHEREAS** in 2013, AFN passed Resolution 13-23 in support of meaningful chemicals policy reform at the state and federal levels; and

**WHEREAS** toxic exposures continue to threaten our health because Congress has not yet passed meaningful or protective reform of the ineffective and outdated federal law—the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA) that was intended to regulate chemicals used in commerce; and

**WHEREAS** due to the ineffectiveness of this law, there are approximately 85,000 chemicals on the market, most of which have never been tested for safety for human health yet are ultimately found in our traditional foods, our environment, our bodies, and in our homes, even though these chemicals have never been produced in Alaska or the circumpolar Arctic; and

**WHEREAS** the chemicals present in our bodies are passed on to our children and harm their ability to learn our languages, songs, stories, and knowledge; and

**WHEREAS** research has demonstrated that Alaska Native and other 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 our children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of chemical exposures that are known to harm their developing brains, cause learning and developmental disabilities, birth defects, reproductive disorders, and cancers; and

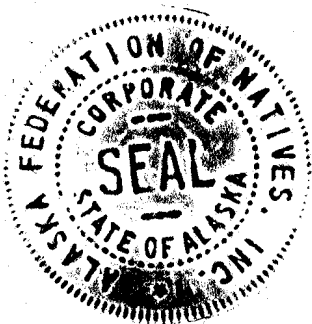
WHEREAS because of the lack of meaningful chemicals policy reform at the federal level, it is the responsibility of our Alaska State Legislature to take action in passing the Toxic-Free Children's Act (SB 111) to protect the health of our children and our future generations; and

WHEREAS the SB 111 will prevent the manufacture, sale, and distribution of ten toxic and unnecessary flame retardant chemicals in children's products and home furniture. It will also require the labeling of children's products to inform people whether these products contain toxic flame retardant chemicals. Chemical flame-retardants are widely used in children's products, carpeting, and home furniture. These harmful chemicals are found in toys, nap mats, nursing pillows, changing pads, baby carriers, carpet padding, and upholstered furniture foam. Under current federal law, these toxic chemicals are virtually unregulated for their safety. Yet, these chemicals pose a serious public health threat, are particularly toxic to children, and do not provide a fire safety benefit. They have a range of harmful health effects, including cancer, learning disabilities, developmental impairment, and reproductive harm.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to protect the health of our children and future generations by passing the Toxic-Free Children's Act.

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
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-18**

**TITLE:** SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) created the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) and the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) which is the primary source of funding for affordable housing for Alaska Native and American Indian families; and

WHEREAS safe, healthy and affordable housing is the very foundation for sustainable, healthy communities and the underpinning for many Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) programs; and

WHEREAS NAHASDA allocates approximately \$98 million each year to Alaskan tribes and communities; and

WHEREAS NAHASDA empowers tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs), also known as regional housing authorities (RHAs), with local decision making which enables the creation of housing programs that are specific to each region or community; and

WHEREAS private sector housing construction and development in rural Alaska is almost non-existent; and

WHEREAS tribes and regional housing authorities (RHA) have an established record of effectively partnering with the state of Alaska, non-profit agencies, and private sector investors to leverage NAHASDA funds; and

WHEREAS tribes and RHAs, on an average annual basis, have used NAHASDA funds to construct 190 new homes (\$45 million), rehabilitate 740 existing homes (\$20 million), weatherize 1,220 homes (\$23 million), employ 1,145 full-time jobs (\$57 million), pay Alaskan businesses and contractors for services (\$84 million), thereby contributing to our rural economies; and

WHEREAS Indian housing is not merely a federal entitlement or "discretionary program," but has its roots in a solemn trust responsibility to Indian nations and peoples; and

WHEREAS NAHASDA has been reauthorized many times, most recently in 2008, but the current authorization period expired September 30, 2013; and



WHEREAS NAHASDA has always enjoyed broad bipartisan support in the both the House and the Senate and both the House and Senate have pending bills under consideration.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN requests Congress to move quickly to resolve any differences between the House and the Senate on pending bills and promptly work to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act.

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; ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES AND BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15–19**

**TITLE:** ADDRESSING ILLEGAL FOREIGN ONLINE SALES OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** Alaskans with Internet access can mail-order painkillers online from foreign markets without a medical prescription; and

**WHEREAS** Alaskans are using prescription medication, such as Tramadol to get high, or selling the pills they obtain to other tribal members who are addicted. Tramadol is a synthetic opiate with potential for abuse and addiction, and tribal members have suffered withdrawal symptoms such as non-epileptic related seizures; and

**WHEREAS** Gabapentin is an anticonvulsant medication that is becoming more common in area villages, and is also available online without a medical prescription. This drug is abused for an “alcohol high” effect with a potential for dependence and adverse withdrawal symptoms; and

**WHEREAS** action must be taken to safeguard our people from foreign online pharmaceutical dealers.

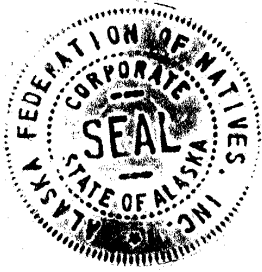
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention request the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and state and federal agencies promote prescription drug abuse awareness and rehabilitation support to all villages.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AFN will collaborate with our state legislators and our congressional delegation to combat the illegal online sales of pharmaceuticals to our member Villages.

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

SUBMITTED BY:  
BOARD ACTION:  
CONVENTION ACTION:

ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS  
PASSED  
PASSED



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie E. Kitka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Kitka  
President

# EDUCATION



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-20**

**TITLE:** SUPPORTING RURAL SCHOOLS BY URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION BY OPPOSING SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION, CONTINUING AND INCREASING FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, AND PURSUING COST CUTTING MEASURES BY ELIMINATING UNFUNDED/UNDERFUNDED MANDATES

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 Oly-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** education is the key to a better future for Alaska Native peoples; and

**WHEREAS** education of Alaska Native children is one of the highest priorities, and an essential foundation for building strong Alaskan Native leadership; and

**WHEREAS** all schools in the state of Alaska are facing incredible challenges in cost containment as energy and transportation costs increase; and

**WHEREAS** many off our rural schools face difficulty in providing the comparable programing for students as those provided in larger schools, due to the cost of broadband services, energy, and transportation costs; and

**WHEREAS** unfunded and underfunded mandates to local school districts add to the financial hardships of districts face as school board work to balance meeting all federal and state requirements, without funding provided to do so, as well as providing an education to all students; and

**WHEREAS** in 2014 the Alaska State Legislature increased the base student allocation for the first time in five years as well as additional one time funding to help supplement the cost of public education in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** in 2015 facing unanticipated deficits in the state budget, the Alaska State Legislature did not provide school districts with the one time funding promised by the 2014 legislature; and

**WHEREAS** in anticipation of continued deficit budgets, some legislators have proposed possibly increasing the minimum average daily membership of schools required to maintain funding; and

**WHEREAS** based on 2014 enrollment numbers, an increase in the minimum average daily membership from 10 students to 25 students would cut funding for 74 rural schools, impacting 982 students, 576 of which are Alaska Native Students; and

WHEREAS based on 2014 enrollment numbers, an increase in the minimum average daily membership from 10 students to 50 students would cut funding for 116 rural schools, impacting 2,522 students, 1,733 of which are Alaska Native Students; and

WHEREAS the potential closure of these schools, if the minimum average daily membership were increased, would have a significantly negative impact on rural communities and Alaska Native students.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN opposes school consolidation/increasing the minimum average daily membership, as a method of cutting the state of Alaska's education budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to prioritize funding a high quality public education, honoring the scheduled 2016 increase in the base student allocation from \$5,880 to \$5,930, as well as looking at methods of increasing funding for public education in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to take a serious look at the unfunded and underfunded mandates to school districts to identify where mandates can be removed, cutting costs to school districts.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	QAGAN TAYAGUNGIN TRIBE OF SAND POINT
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-21**

**TITLE:** OPPOSE THE COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION'S IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARD 3.2 FOR ALASKA TEACHERS

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** education is the key to a better future for Alaska Native and American Indian peoples and is the foundation for building strong Native leadership; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Native and American Indian teachers are positive role models that inspire and empower Native youth to reach their goals. Numerous case and qualitative studies have demonstrated the educational benefits of a culturally based education; however, Alaska Natives and American Indians are underrepresented in the teaching profession; and

**WHEREAS** the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) is the sole accrediting body for educator preparation providers. In other words, CAEP is the only organization in the United States that accredits universities, colleges, and other specialized programs that educate and train future preschool – 12th grade teachers; and

**WHEREAS** CAEP, as the sole accreditor of educator preparation providers, exerts a large influence across the educational landscape and these standards are useful and guide many institutions across the United States; and

**WHEREAS** with this tremendous influence, CAEP has a great responsibility to create standards that do not create hardships, burdens, and disparate impacts on Alaska Natives and American Indians, and other underrepresented minority groups such as Latinos and African Americans; and

**WHEREAS** in 2013, CAEP adopted Standard 3.2. This standard requires, at a minimum, that educator preparation providers ensure that its accepted cohort of candidates (entering education students) have a grade point average of at least 3.0 and meet the following average performance on nationally normed ability/achievement assessments such as the SAT, ACT or GRE:

- For 2016 – 2017, top 50%,
- For 2018 – 2019, top 40%, and
- By 2020, top 33%.

WHEREAS Alaska Native and American Indian students perform below the average of SAT test takers, due to social and economic barriers as well as lack of and unequal access to exam preparation opportunities such as high school courses and SAT preparation classes. For example, fewer than 50% of Alaska Native and American Indian students have access to the full range of math and science courses in their high schools. Thus, Alaska Native and American Indians are being held to a standard that are not being adequately prepared for; and

WHEREAS Standard 3.2 will force educator preparation provider programs to accept fewer Alaska Native and American Indian education students in order to retain their accreditation, resulting in continued low representation of Alaska Natives and American Indians serving as teachers. For example, if Standard 3.2's 2020 requirement is implemented, over 95% of the Alaska Native teacher candidates would be eliminated at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS because Standard 3.2 will decrease the number of Native students pursuing bachelor degrees in education, it will have a direct negative impact on the number of Native students qualified to pursue graduate degrees in education. This is significant because Alaska Native and American Indian students pursue post-bachelor degrees in education at a higher rate than any other field of study. 32% of Master degrees and 22% of Doctoral degrees awarded to Alaska Native and American Indian students are in the education field; and

WHEREAS there is no definitive research or data that demonstrates performance on standardized tests such as the ACT and SAT is an effective indicator of a prospective student's success in an educator preparation provider program or as a teacher; and

WHEREAS Alaska Representative Don Young and Hawaii Representative Mark Takai have recognized the disparate impact Standard 3.2 will have on Alaska Native and American Indian teacher candidates and submitted House Resolution 405 - "Calling on the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation to modify its accreditation standards to prevent the standards from negatively impacting Alaska Native and American Indian teacher candidates." House Resolution 405 calls upon CAEP to "(1) consult with tribes and Native Organization, (2) jointly develop changes to its accreditation standards to ensure that Alaska Native and American Indian teacher candidates will not be negatively impacted by such standards, and (3) adopt changes to its accreditation standards expeditiously."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN call upon CAEP to (1) immediately suspend Standard 3.2; (2) form a working group with Alaska Native and American Indian faculty at educator preparation provider programs to research and understand the disparate impacts of Standard 3.2; and (3) develop and implement an alternative Standard, with Alaska Native and American Indian stakeholder involvement, that does not have a disparate impact.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN work with the U.S. Congress by supporting Representative Young and Representative Takai's House Resolution 405 and requesting the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to oppose and address CAEP's Standard 3.2.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN consult with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice to determine the policy impact and legality of Standard 3.2 should it not be withdrawn by CAEP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AFN create a CAEP oversight subcommittee to monitor current and future CAEP standards and policies that have a negative effect and disparate impact on Alaska Native and American Indian students and teachers.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE AND CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-22**

**TITLE:** OPPOSE ANY LEGISLATIVE ACTION THAT WOULD INCREASE THE MINIMUM ADJUSTED AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT FOR RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO BE FULLY FUNDED

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 in 1998, the Alaska legislature passed a law reducing funds to school districts with schools that enrolled nine students or fewer; and

WHEREAS given the current state budget shortfall, there have been proposals within the Alaska State Legislature to increase the minimum student rule to 25 in order to reduce costs; and

WHEREAS the funding law is a complex formula that takes into account various factors. Part of this formula is a school district's Adjusted Average Daily Membership (ADM), "the aggregate number of full-time equivalent students enrolled in a school district during the student count period...divided by the actual number of days that the school is in session for the student count period"; and

WHEREAS if a single school has an ADM of less than ten, it affects the school district's ADM and leads to reduced state funding for the district.

WHEREAS school districts must decide whether to accept reduced state funding or close a school that has an ADM of less than ten; and

WHEREAS unfortunately, school districts opt to close the rural school rather than accept reduced state funding as evidenced in 2013 by 32 rural schools having closed since this law was enacted in 1998; and

WHEREAS the state is considering increasing the minimum number of students from 10 to 25, potentially affecting 65 schools and the 921 current enrolled students; and

WHEREAS 66.5% of students that would be affected are Alaska Native or other minority backgrounds, from the Kenai Peninsula to Wasilla, to Diomedes to Pelican City; and

WHEREAS it is well documented that Alaska tribes and villages suffer devastating effects when village schools close - the community and its children are left without a school, jobs are lost, and residents leave the community; and

WHEREAS raising the minimum ADM from 10 in order for school districts to receive full state funding will be an insurmountable obstacle for rural communities with low enrollment to keep their school open, and more importantly, it will bring many small Native communities to the brink of extinction; and

WHEREAS communities are capable of reopening schools, and keeping their villages alive, when the ADM is 10. For example, the village of Rampart lost its school and the population fell to 12 people nearly 15 years ago. Today the population is around 40 and Rampart Chief Floyd Green attributes the reopening of the school as a vital part of the village's resurgence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN oppose any legislative action to raise the ADM higher than ten students.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE AND BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President

## **LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES**



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-23**

**TITLE:** HOLDING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATORY AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE AND REQUESTING THE RESPONSIBLE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND LONG OVERDUE CLEANUP OF FORMERLY AND CURRENTLY USED DEFENSE SITES IN ALASKA

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** Alaska has been a site of great strategic importance to the Department of Defense, from World War II through the Cold War and into present times. There are approximately 700 abandoned and currently used military sites in Alaska that are contaminated with hazardous wastes. Five military bases are Superfund sites on the National Priorities List of the most polluted sites in the nation. Other sites in Alaska have ranked high enough for placement on the National Priorities List. Many of these formerly used defense sites are in close proximity to Alaska Native communities and continue to harm our lands, waters, subsistence resources, and the health of our communities; and

**WHEREAS** these military sites are often heavily contaminated with PCBs and other persistent chemicals such as pesticides, fuel spills, solvents, heavy metals, chemical warfare materials, and radioactive waste. Information about the sites is often not available to affected communities. Most of these sites have not been properly characterized as to the full nature and extent of contamination and effects on the health of fish, wildlife, and people. Prescribed methods such as “monitored natural attenuation” are not acceptable or protective of our health and environment as they allow contamination to remain in place for decades to come; and

**WHEREAS** elders and other community leaders have expressed profound concerns and witnessed unusual cancers, thyroid problems, miscarriages, and other health disparities that they attribute to military contamination; and

**WHEREAS** studies have demonstrated harmful levels of contaminants from military sites in the surrounding environment and in the bodies of Alaska Native people that are known to be associated with cancer and other diseases; and

**WHEREAS** harms caused by the military contamination violate our human rights as set forth in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People including the right of free, prior and informed consent; the right to participate in decision-making;

the right to our means of subsistence; the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and productive capacity of our lands; and the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN calls upon the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the state of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure swift and complete cleanup and adequate funding of formerly and currently used defense sites in Alaska and to restore these sites as near as possible to original conditions in order to protect the lands, waters, subsistence resources, and health of Alaska Native peoples and all Alaskans, including future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress to enact legislation that requires the government to prioritize the cleanup of contamination on or near Native lands and confirms the federal government maintains legal liability of federal government caused contamination on or near Native lands.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	KAWERAK, INCORPORATED
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-24**

**TITLE:** URGING THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACT NOW TO ADDRESS AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS ON ALASKAN COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE COMMUNITY RESILIENCY AND ADAPTATION

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Alaska, especially rural Alaskan coastal communities, are on the front lines of climate change; and

WHEREAS climate change and the effects of continued warming are imparting large scale changes to the environment, livelihood, economy, and the animals we rely upon, and our Alaska Native brothers and sisters in all parts of Alaska from Southeast Alaska to the North Slope of Alaska are affected; and

WHEREAS our people have lived in the Arctic for thousands of years, and were the first environmentalists, resource managers, and participants in Arctic commerce. Despite this, Alaska Natives have been relegated to the "back of the bus" when it comes to decisions about the Arctic and matters that affect our people. We need to be included from the beginning in all deliberations and decisions about the Arctic; and

WHEREAS a commitment by the United States and the state of Alaska to include Alaska Native communities affected by climate change in decisions that affect us is critical, and actions by the state and federal governments will have profound impacts on our future generations and all of Alaskans; and

WHEREAS some of the most vulnerable communities were anchored in these sites by the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools.

WHEREAS many communities in close proximity to rivers or oceans are experiencing flooding and other problems due to the erosion of their coast or river banks, and other communities have suffered other natural disasters linked to climate change; and

WHEREAS marine life is a vital element for survival to coastal communities; ice conditions have become less stable, thinner, and spring melt has shifted to earlier in the year; ocean acidification and warming is also contributing to changes in the ecosystems; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives in coastal communities are experiencing readily observable impacts of climate change, and are especially at risk given all the increased activity in the Arctic; and

WHEREAS the federal government has enacted climate change policies that adversely impact Alaska Natives ability to participate in traditional subsistence activities and access economic development opportunities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the federal and state governments to provide federally recognized tribes, tribal nonprofit organizations, and ANCSA corporations equal representation and decision-making power regarding any climate change policies and legislation affecting the state of Alaska and its people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the federal and state governments to ensure that any climate change related regulations and legislation do not hinder Alaska Natives ability to access subsistence resources or hinder any current and future economic development opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the state and federal governments to act now and invest in infrastructure designed to protect from oil spills, contaminants, and biohazards associated with Aleutians to Arctic industrial activities and climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the state and federal governments to consider the feasibility of renewable energy infrastructure to mitigate climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the federal and state governments to increase climate change and marine research regarding impacts to ecosystems and indigenous people, including traditional ecological knowledge and institutions capable of obtaining that knowledge, such as Alaska Native organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the state and federal governments to explore and implement methods that allow Alaska Natives to be given priority for economic opportunities created in relation to or due to climate change and its impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the state and federal governments to coordinate disaster preparedness, response, and recovery planning and implementation with local and regional entities, and that funding be allocated to address the threats to life and safety, with prioritization being provided to the communities that have been identified as being in "imminent danger."

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



SUBMITTED BY:

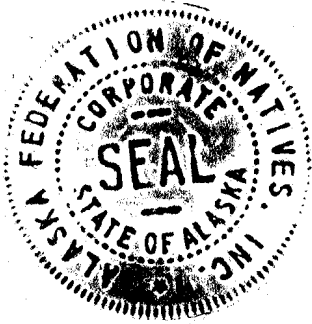
COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES AND  
TETLIN IRA COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION:

PASSED

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-25**

**TITLE:** PROTECTING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND CULTURE IN ALASKA BY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES IMPLEMENT THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION (IJC) INVOLVEMENT AND SEEK THE CONSENT OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS IN ALL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ALASKA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND YUKON TERRITORIES

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** transboundary rivers of the Northwest British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and Southeast Alaska region, including the Taku, Stikine, Unuk, Alsek, Yukon, and Porcupine rivers are of tremendous and unique ecological, customary and traditional use (“subsistence”) and cultural value and are some of the most productive salmon rivers on the entire North American west coast and are the life-blood of our Native Communities; and

**WHEREAS** British Columbia (BC) is experiencing rapid and large-scale industrialization and development in the headwaters and tributaries of these vital rivers, including several current and proposed open-pit mines, as result of the BC Northwest Power Line bringing in electricity to the region and relaxed British Columbian and Canadian environmental laws; and

**WHEREAS** many BC mine projects are located in areas that have high potential to create acid mine drainage and also pose associated risks with the waste rock piles, tailing dams, energy development, and roads due to the potential for accidents and spills, tailings dam breaches, acid mine drainage, and habitat fragmentation; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Native tribes, B.C. first nations, fishermen, local communities, elected leaders, and conservations groups on both sides of the United States/Canadian border have all raised concerns about the potential harm from the proposed developments to water quality, fish, wildlife and ultimately to the cultural existence, livelihoods, and local economies in the region; and

WHEREAS healthy wild salmon populations in these river systems are a priority to our tribal nations and to our tribal citizens' community health, cultural existence, and sovereignty; and

WHEREAS the United States must uphold its trust responsibility and obligation to consult with tribes and ANCSA corporations and protect our interests and citizens; and

WHEREAS the non-operating Tulsequah Chief mine in British Columbia is currently leaking acidic water into a river on the Canadian side of the border that flows into the salmon-rich Taku River; and

WHEREAS the Boundary Waters Treaty between the United State and Canada states that "waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other" and provides a mechanism for the United States and Canada to address transboundary river concerns known as the International Joint Commission; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska has not recognized the sovereign nation status of the federally recognized indigenous tribes within its borders; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska is entering into an agreement with B.C. allowing greater access to the permitting process of these mines; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native tribes' concerns about protecting water quality and fish consumption must be integral to any transboundary watershed development decision-making.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that we strongly urge the United States government (Congress, White House, and federal agencies) to uphold its trust responsibility to tribes and to work with the Canadian government by referring the transboundary issues to the International Joint Commission, and to utilize any and all powers under the Boundary Waters Treaty to ensure that our cultural existence and community health are not harmed by upstream development in British Columbia and Yukon Territories.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that affected tribal governments, ANCSA corporations and organizations be consulted with and represented in any and all agreements or policy discussions related to impacts on the waters of these rivers and communities per Executive Order 13175 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

# **ECONOMIC**



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-26**

**TITLE:** TO REQUIRE DEPENDABLE MAIL SERVICE AND TO CAUSE THE DESIGNATION OF NATIVE COMMUNITIES AS BYPASS MAIL POINTS

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** most communities and a large portion of the population within the State of Alaska can only be reached by air, as there is no surface transportation alternative; and

**WHEREAS** in the past several years rural Alaska communities have seen a deterioration of mail service; and

**WHEREAS** the vast majority of food items and everyday necessities destined for these isolated communities and populations can only be transported through the air; and

**WHEREAS** the Intra-Alaska Bypass Mail system was created by Congress to provide the most affordable means of delivering food and everyday necessities to rural and isolated communities, to establish a system whereby the Postal Service can meet its obligations to deliver mail to every house and business in the United States, to support affordable and reliable passenger service, and to support affordable and reliable non-mail freight service; and

**WHEREAS** without bypass mail, food, medicine, freight, and everyday necessities and passenger service for rural and isolated communities costs several times more; and

**WHEREAS** Congress has determined that it is in the best interest of the Postal Service, the residents of Alaska and the United States to ensure that mail service, in general, as well as the bypass mail system remains strong to ensure that residents of rural and isolated communities in Alaska have affordable, reliable, and safe passenger service and to ensure that residents of rural and isolated communities in Alaska continue to have affordable, reliable, and safe non-mail freight service; and

**WHEREAS** rural communities not designated as bypass mail points have much higher costs of food, medicine, and essential services, and inferior and more expensive air passenger service; and

**WHEREAS** bypass mail service to presently unserved communities is required to achieve the Congressional purpose of the bypass mail system; and

**WHEREAS** residents of unserved communities are disproportionately Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS bypass mail service to Alaska Native communities is essential to promote the health and sustainability of Native communities; and

WHEREAS residents of these unserved communities do not receive the same service as other Americans, despite the Postal Service's universal service obligation; and

WHEREAS bypass mail service to Native Alaskan communities is essential to the equal treatment of Alaska Natives and the Postal Service's universal service obligation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN shall undertake to ensure that all Native communities receive dependable US mail service and are designated as bypass mail points, reducing the disparate treatment of Alaska Natives and promoting the well-being of our communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN will advocate for the enhancement and the creation of infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation to lower the cost of living in rural Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVES that AFN will monitor this expansion in an effort to protect the communities that are currently receiving bypass mail.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	KUUKPIK CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President

# **ANSCA/TRIBAL**





**Alaska Federation of Natives  
2015 Annual Convention  
Resolution 15-27**

**TITLE:** SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF TRIBAL COURTS

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** Alaska Native tribal courts are a proven tool for effective justice in rural Alaska. tribes know that over 95% of child neglect, sexual abuse, violence, and juvenile issues stem from substance abuse. Armed with this knowledge, tribal courts focus on addressing the underlying issues of substance abuse. Practices that seek to heal the individual, heal the family, and address underlying issues have worked to restore tribal communities for centuries and they work today; and

**WHEREAS** approximately one-third of Alaska's tribes are operating formal tribal courts, while others are taking informal action. Tribal courts currently handle child protection, adoption, domestic and family violence, substance abuse issues, and juvenile cases. With increased confirmed authority and funding for tribal courts, more tribes would initiate development of formal tribal court procedures; and

**WHEREAS** to date, tribal court proceedings have saved the state hundreds of millions of dollars and deterred countless criminal activities that cannot be quantified monetarily. When the state initiates a child protection or criminal matter it triggers tens of thousands of dollars in the form of court action, attorneys, social workers, and corrections. If tribes could utilize a fraction of this funding to operate tribal courts and programs Alaska would make huge advances to reduced criminal activity, recidivism rates, and child neglect while still saving money.

**WHEREAS** today, most tribal courts operate on limited grant funds, skeleton budgets, and volunteer hours and thus are only able to take on a limited amount of cases; and

**WHEREAS** tribal courts need assistance in further development of tribal ordinances, code and court procedure drafting, court clerk and judicial training and overhead costs; and

**WHEREAS** in the past, the state of Alaska has marginalized and ignored the positive outcomes of tribally based justice systems and tribal consortiums to provide more cost-effective and responsive alternatives to prevent crime, which has caused confusion over tribal court authority; and

**WHEREAS** today, leaders in all three branches of government in the state of Alaska and our federal delegation to the U.S. Congress, have recognized the authority and value of tribal court action and discussion is able to move forward as tribes offer innovative

ways in which tribal programs can work with state and federal programs in order to improve the safety of our state; and

WHEREAS U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) and Chair of the U.S. Interior Appropriations Committee has taken action to confirm tribal court authority with the repeal of Section 910 of Title IX of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA). Senator Murkowski has sought tribal court funding through the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 which mandates that “within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Bureau [of Indian Affairs], in coordination with the Department of Justice, is directed to report to the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction on the budgetary needs of tribal courts in [Public Law 280] states. See 160 Cong. Rec. H9764-5 (Dec. 11, 2014). In addition, Senator Murkowski has held multiple SCIA hearings which seek to identify ways to improve the safety and health of Alaska’s communities; and

WHEREAS Alaska Senator John Coghill has introduced Senate Bill 117, which seeks to create a Tribal Court Diversion Program in which law enforcement will refer certain misdemeanor and alcohol offenses to tribal courts to supplement other efforts in criminal justice reforms; and

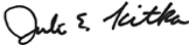
WHEREAS state of Alaska Attorney General Craig Richards has issued an official opinion instructing law enforcement to comply with VAWA by enforcing tribal protections orders (even those not registered with the state courts) and by investigating and prosecuting all violations of tribal protection orders (that comply with the full faith and credit requirements set forth in VAWA); and

WHEREAS Alaska Native tribal courts have been successful with limited resources and confirmed authority, to heal community members by addressing underlying substance abuse issues and Alaska’s elected leaders including tribal chiefs, the Alaska congressional delegation, and state of Alaska administration, and legislators are committed to utilizing tribal courts in new and innovative ways.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that in order to address the high rates of criminal activity, recidivism, domestic violence, and child protection concerns in Alaska’s communities, Alaska Native tribal courts should be empowered with state and federal confirmed authority and dedicated funding.

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  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED

  
Julie Kita, President





**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-28**

**TITLE:** URGING CONGRESS TO INCREASE SMALL AND NEEDY TRIBE FUNDING TO \$300,000 PER TRIBE

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** in the 1990s Congress established within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) budget the Small and Needy Tribes (SNT) program, which was intended to bring each tribe up to a minimum \$160,000 base of Tribal Priority Allocation funding so that all tribes could fund core tribal operations; the original report on which Congress based this increase recommended funding Alaska tribes at \$200,000; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska tribes rarely have any recurring revenue sources outside of BIA funding, and the SNT program has provided the base from which most small tribes operate; and

**WHEREAS** SNT funding has not been increased since the \$160,000 per tribe base was established in the 1990s, and has actually decreased due to sequestration since fiscal year (FY) 2013; and

**WHEREAS** tribal funding has not kept up with inflation since the 1990s and tribes are increasingly harmed by rising costs for fuel, electricity, transportation, telecommunication, and employee health care costs.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges Congress to increase appropriations for the Small and Needy Tribes program to \$300,000 per tribe.

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
**COMMITTEE ACTION:** PASSED  
**CONVENTION ACTION:** PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-29**

**TITLE:** INCREASING THE SAFETY OF ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** we, the members of AFN, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Native nations, rights and benefits secured and to which we are entitled consistent with the federal trust responsibility and government-to-government relations, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of Alaska Native tribes and people, to defend centuries old Native customs and traditions that have survived contact with foreign governments, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of Native people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Native peoples honor, respect, and hold women sacred; retain our inherent right to live according to our life-affirming customs and traditions which regulates respectful boundaries for all of our relationships; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska is home to 229 (or 40%) of federally recognized tribes; one Native village-based women's shelter, the Emmonak Women's Shelter, operating since 1979; one tribal nonprofit domestic violence and sexual assault coalition, the Yup'ik Women's Coalition operating since 2006; and the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center, a nonprofit dedicated to ending violence against women; and only 78 villages are served by state law enforcement who need culturally appropriate training on how to work with tribes and Native peoples; and

**WHEREAS** the federal government has a trust responsibility to Alaska Native tribes and should consult with Alaska Native tribes on violence against Native women; and

**WHEREAS** the findings, including the statistics from Chapter 2 of the Indian Law and Order Commission Report released November 2013, entitled Reforming Justice for Alaska Natives: The Time Is Now, provide compelling justification for immediate implementation of the Report's recommendations; and

**WHEREAS** the Commission Report statistics include the following: Alaska Natives are disproportionately affected by crime, and these effects are felt most strongly in Native communities, including Alaska Native women over-represented in the domestic violence victim population by 250%, Native women represent 47 percent

of reported rapes or at least seven times the non-Native rate, and in Native villages, reported rates of domestic violence are up to 10 times higher than the rest of the United States; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native villages suffer disproportionately from crimes rooted in a disruption of Native customs and traditions, which is evident with the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence, alcohol/substance abuse, suicide, homicide, teen pregnancy, removal and separation of children from their families, and diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and cirrhosis of the liver; and

WHEREAS the rates of missing and murdered Alaska Native women and women and girls have been ignored by the current health and justice systems and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS given the high rates of crimes and other issues, an equitable formula set aside for Alaska Native tribal governments is required of federal and state resources for tribes to develop, implement and sustain local, culturally relevant solutions to immediately and comprehensively address the health, safety and welfare of its members and hold offenders accountable; and

WHEREAS the federal government and the state of Alaska have not allocated resources equitably to Alaska Native tribes, especially those in rural, remote, off-road communities, including, but not limited to, funding under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Victims of Crime Act. In fact, federal and state laws, policies, and practices have limited tribal government's authority to protect and ensure the health and wellbeing of our citizens; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska Attorney General Craig Richards has recently issued clarification that the state must comply with Section 2265 of the VAWA addressing full faith and credit of protection orders, that does not require state registration of orders for state recognition and enforcement purposes; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska needs assistance to implement meaningful government to government consultation per the 2013 amendments to VAWA requiring the state to consult and coordinate with all 229 Alaska Native tribes in the development of the state's Stop Violence Against Women Formula Grant Implementation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that the United States recognize and immediately respond to the human crisis confronting Alaska Native women due to the laws and policies that have left Alaska Native women vulnerable to perpetrators of rape, domestic violence, murder, sex trafficking, and hate crimes by providing Alaska Native women the same protections under the VAWA as other women in the United States specifically:

1. Monitor state compliance with the VAWA Full Faith and Credit, 18 U.S.C. §2265, and assist with entering Alaska Native village protection orders into the National Protection Order Registry;
2. Provide technical assistance to the state of Alaska to comply with VAWA 2013 to meaningfully consult with Alaska Native Villages in the development of the state

implementation plan required for the state to annually receive formula grant funds from OVW and coordinate with tribes in the implementation of the state plan; and

3. Open an Alaska Office on Violence Against Women to provide the same access for the 229 Alaska Native villages as Indian tribes within the lower forty-eight states to ensure equitable access of critical resources to Alaska tribes, and ensure meaningful access to Alaska Natives who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) and challenged by consistent Internet access.
4. Provide Alaska Native women the same protections under the Family Violence and Prevention Services Act as other victims of domestic violence in the United States specifically:
5. Provide separate annual, non-competitive formula funding specifically to Alaska Native tribes for life-saving services for advocacy, shelter and victim services calculated using population numbers of the Tribe's choice either current numbers used by the FVPSA Office or individual village tribal enrollment;
6. Provide formula grant program support to a regional domestic violence resource center, the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to Increase the Safety of Native Women, as provided under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act of 2010 to serve as a dedicated nonprofit organization to work with tribal governments, allied nonprofit organizations, and government agencies; and
7. Provide resources for the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to work in partnership with the AFN to organize a Unity Meeting to Increase the Safety of Alaska Native Women annually and prior to the AFN Annual Convention beginning with the 2016 Convention.
8. The Alaska Federation of Natives will work with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to host an annual Unity Meeting to Increase the Safety of Alaska Native Women and prior to the Annual Convention beginning in 2016
9. The Alaska Federation of Natives will work with the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center to establish a Task Force dedicated to addressing the emerging issues preventing the safety of Alaska Native Women.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	ANVIK TRIBAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-30**

TITLE: DISMISS THE AKIACHAK LITIGATION

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 land into trust for Alaska tribes could possibly protect culturally important tribal lands, and might increase tribal jurisdiction and provide additional federal funding; and

WHEREAS evidence has accumulated that tribal self-government is the best means of improving outcomes for Natives living in tribal communities; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives strive for safe rural communities and increased protection of Alaska Native hunting and fishing rights; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native tribes seek the opportunity to research and discuss the possible opportunities of tribal trust lands in their respective traditional lands and if so determine, apply for trust status; and

WHEREAS the Governor is currently persisting in an appeal of Akiachak v. Jewell (No. 06-0969) (DDC), a decade-old lawsuit which held unlawful the former regulatory bar against the U.S. Interior Secretary taking land into trust in Alaska outside of Metlakatla (the Secretary subsequently repealed the regulatory prohibition that was the target of the lawsuit).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN calls upon Governor Walker to dismiss the appeal in the Akiachak litigation.

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES  
BOARD ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-31**

**TITLE:** NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENTS AND ISSUES INCLUDING THE REBURIAL OF ALASKA NATIVE HUMAN REMAINS WHOSE TRIBAL AFFILIATION IS UNKNOWN (CULTURALLY UNIDENTIFIABLE HUMAN REMAINS)

WHEREAS The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 was enacted to return to tribes certain cultural items and human remains held by museums and entities that receive federal funding; and

WHEREAS during the past 25 years, tribes have discovered flaws and major problems that may be rectified through legislative amendments and regulatory changes; and

WHEREAS these flaws and problems range from the onerous and costly dispute process that can range up to \$100,000 or more for tribes; the findings of the NAGPRA Review Committee that are only advisory and that museums can ignore; to problems with museums and other entities non-compliance with NAGPRA that fail to prepare summaries and inventories and placing the burden on tribes to prove non-compliance and to the inadequate federal funds for tribes to implement NAGPRA; and

WHEREAS one of the major problems is the disposition or reburial of ancestral human remains that cannot be culturally affiliated with a tribe or region and are identified only as Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS the culturally identified ancestral human remains are housed in museums or governmental offices until such time as the cultural affiliation can be established or a disposition process has been established and approved by the NAGPRA Review Committee; and

WHEREAS evidence may not be available to conclusively identify the origin and tribal affiliation of human remains advertently or inadvertently discovered and held in museums or by governmental entities; and



WHEREAS Alaska Natives believe that we share common cultural values and believe that our ancestors should be interred within Alaska rather than held in museums or by governmental entities because they are culturally unidentifiable; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives desire to adopt a process to allow for the respectful reburial of our ancestral human remains in accordance with our cultural values and with the recognition that the tribal cultural affiliation or tribal identification may not be able to be established; and

WHEREAS the Bureau of Indian Affairs recently contacted 133 tribes and corporations advising them that it is holding the remains of two Alaska Natives and received a response from only representative of one region; and

WHEREAS a statewide organization that addresses NAGPRA issues is non-existent; and

WHEREAS a goal of AFN is to “foster and encourage preservation of Alaska Native cultures.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AFN shall appoint the former representatives of the Smithsonian NAGPRA Committee and the National NAGPRA Review Committee, John Johnson of Chugach and Rosita Worl of Sealaska respectively, to invite interested tribal members to meet with them to develop proposed legislative amendments and regulatory changes that will address the range of problematic areas of NAGPRA and that they shall be submitted to the AFN Legislative and Litigation Committee for action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these representatives shall also develop a process for the reburial of ancestral human remains that are identified as Alaska Native and that cannot be culturally identified with a tribe or region that can be brought to the National NAGPRA Review Committee in accordance with 43 CFR Section 10.11 for disposition and that they shall further identify a reburial site for these Alaska Native ancestral human remains.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	CHUGACH CORPORATION AND SEALASKA
BOARD ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



*Julie E. Kitka*  
Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-32**

**TITLE:** TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPUTY ASSISTANT FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION OF NATIVE AMERICANS

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political platform of the entire Alaska Native community through staunch advocacy before the U.S. Congress and other federal, state, and local forums; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has previously established an Administration for Native Americans (ANA) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) that supports Native American communities by providing financial assistance and capacity building, gathering and sharing data, and advocating for improved policies within HHS and across the federal government; and

**WHEREAS** established in 1974 through the Native American Programs Act (NAPA), the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) serves all Native Americans, including federally recognized tribes, American Indian and Alaska Native organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations and Native populations throughout the Pacific Basin (including American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands); and

**WHEREAS** ANA promotes self-sufficiency for Native Americans by providing discretionary grant funding for community based projects, and training and technical assistance to eligible tribes and native organizations; and

**WHEREAS** ANA promotes self-sufficiency for Native Americans by providing discretionary grant funding for community based projects, and training and technical assistance to eligible tribes and native organizations; and

**WHEREAS** ANA's goals include:

- Fostering the development of stable diversified local economies and economic activities to provide jobs, promote community and economic well-being, encourage community partnerships and reduce dependency on public funds and social services.
- Supporting local access to, control of and coordination of services and programs that safeguard the health and well-being of native children and families

- Increasing the number of projects involving youth and intergenerational activities in Native American communities

WHEREAS the Commissioner of ANA has had tremendous impact on the visibility and importance of tribes and tribal organizations in the funding and programs across HHS and particularly those in the ACF, including TANF, Child Care, Head Start, LIHEAP and other important programs.

WHEREAS the work that that the Commissioner extends beyond the ANA itself to provide important leadership within ACF to increase capacity for tribes and tribal organizations to provide services for their own people and requires the stature of an Assistant Secretary title.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN strongly supports the establishment of an Assistant Secretary for Native Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that would be a co-appointment with the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans.

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

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC.  
BOARD ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President

**OTHER**



**Alaska Federation of Natives  
2015 Annual Convention  
Resolution 15-33**

**TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND REINVESTMENT IN ALASKA

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** Alaska’s prison population has grown 27% over the last decade, nearly three times faster than the state’s resident population; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Native men and women are disproportionately confined in Alaska’s prisons; and

**WHEREAS** research on criminal offending and recidivism supports broader use of community-based treatment and interventions as alternatives to prison; and

**WHEREAS** incarceration can have harmful and far-reaching collateral consequences for individuals, their families, and their communities; and

**WHEREAS** effective treatment and interventions can result not only in better outcomes for those who have broken the state’s laws, but also in fewer victims; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Native families are disproportionately victimized by crime; and

**WHEREAS** the state of Alaska spends over \$300 million each year operating prisons; and

**WHEREAS** the state of Alaska has not sufficiently funded culturally competent and trauma-informed treatment and services for offenders and victims; and

**WHEREAS** the state of Alaska is facing a multi-billion dollar budget shortfall; and

**WHEREAS** Governor Walker, Senate President Meyer, and Speaker of the House Chenault have identified criminal justice reform as a priority for the coming legislative session; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, with representation and involvement of Alaska Native Communities, is developing recommendations for data-driven and evidence-based criminal justice reforms; and

**WHEREAS** AFN is invested in the long-term success and well being of community members involved in the criminal justice system, as well as those affected by crime and violence.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN publicly supports:

- Criminal justice reforms that curb further growth in the state prison population, improve public safety and the safety of individual victims, and hold offenders accountable; and
- Reinvestment of a portion of the state’s savings from averted prison growth and reduced levels of incarceration into evidence-based and culturally competent treatment and services for offenders and victims.

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

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVE GREG RAZO  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**Alaska Federation of Natives  
2015 Annual Convention  
Resolution 15-34**

**TITLE:** AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL EXHIBIT AT THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL ON THE NATIONAL MALL IN WASHINGTON, DC

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Alaska Native/American Indian and Pacific Islanders serve at the highest per capita rate in the Armed Forces compared to any group of Americans, and have served with valor in all the nation's wars from the Revolutionary War through the present; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native men and women made their commitment to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS an overwhelming majority of Alaska Native men served in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, commonly referred to as the "The Wall," recognizes those Veterans who sacrificed their lives in Vietnam; and

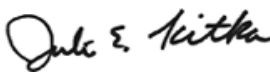
WHEREAS the founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, "The Wall," Jan Scruggs, a Vietnam combat Veteran, wanted the memorial to acknowledge and recognize the service and sacrifice of all those who served in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS the exhibit will recognize the contributions and sacrifices of all American Indian/Alaska Native and Pacific Islander soldiers in all the nation's wars and conflicts in which they participated, from the Revolutionary War through the present.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN hereby recognizes, approves, and supports the American Indian Memorial Exhibit at the Education Center on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

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

SUBMITTED BY: CIRI  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED

  
Julie Kitka, President





**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-35**

**TITLE:** URGING THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO INCLUDE COASTAL ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES IN ARCTIC TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) recently completed a Port Access Route Study regarding a proposed shipping lane from Unimak Pass in the Aleutians through the Bering Strait into the Chukchi Sea; U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration participated with the USCG study and is undertaking a major charting project in the Bering Sea and the Arctic. Among the expected impacts is increased shipping in the Arctic and in the Bering Sea; and

WHEREAS Alaska's Arctic communities are not always included in public processes involving the Arctic; and

WHEREAS all Alaska villages should be included in consultation and planning regarding increased shipping and other industrial activities occurring in the Arctic; and

WHEREAS all coastal villages in Alaska are likely to be impacted, both positively and negatively, by increased marine transportation to and from the Arctic.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges NOAA, the USCG, the U.S. Department of State, and all state and federal agencies involved in marine transportation planning in the Arctic to recognize Alaska coastal communities, Pribilof Islands, as stakeholders and to meaningfully consult with the tribal governments and ANCSA corporations of such communities during the planning process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of the Navy to be involved in marine transportation planning in the Arctic, and to develop, station and deploy national defense assets necessary and adequate to provide for the defense of Alaska from attack without additional harm to Alaska's environment; and

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



SUBMITTED BY:  
COMMITTEE ACTION:  
CONVENTION ACTION:

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
PASS  
PASSED AS AMENDED



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie E. Kitka".

Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-36**

**TITLE:** SUPPORTING ALASKA'S CURRENT SYSTEM OF SELECTION AND RETENTION OF STATE COURT JUDGES

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** the Alaska Judicial Council (AJC) is an independent citizens' commission established by the Alaska Constitution that screens judicial applicants for judicial vacancies; nominates the most qualified applicants to the governor, who makes the final appointment, evaluates the performance of sitting judges and makes evaluation information and recommendations available to the voters; and conducts studies and makes recommendations to improve the administration of justice in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Constitution Article IV, Section 8 provides that the AJC shall have seven members, comprised of three attorneys appointed by the board of governors of the Alaska Bar Association, three non-attorneys appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature with due consideration to area representation and without regard to political affiliation, and the chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, who is ex-officio the seventh member and chairperson; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska's system of selecting judges is a merit selection system intended to limit judicial appointments to what one framer of the Alaska constitution termed "the best available timber"; to avoid a system of selection which would award judicial offices based on partisan politics, political fundraising ability, or special interests; to require that the list of appointees submitted by the AJC undergo a rigorous screening; and that judges shall periodically appear on the ballot (stand for retention) to allow voters to decide whether they should be retained in office; and

**WHEREAS** any amendment that upsets the balance of three governor-selected public members and three members of the Alaska Bar Association by weighting the AJC toward political appointees over subject-matter practitioners contravenes the point of equally weighted membership, and would result in politics and partisanship playing a larger role in judicial selection, undermining the constitutional commitment to merit-based judicial selection; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska's system is widely considered to be one of the best state judicial selection processes in the United States, as preferential to other systems in which judges are either elected or directly appointed; and

WHEREAS AFN does not support any constitutional amendments that would change Alaska's merit-based system for selecting judges, which would in the long term inevitably diminish the quality and fairness of the state judiciary; and

WHEREAS Alaska Native tribes, tribal organizations and individual Alaska Natives subjected to Alaska's civil or criminal judicial system are best served by an independent state judiciary, selected on merit.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN supports Alaska's current system of selection and retention of state court judges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN opposes any attempts to amend the Alaska Constitution to alter the composition of the Alaska Judicial Council.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION, CIRI
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-37**

**TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) provides civil legal aid to ensure fairness for all in the justice system by providing access to legal help for people who cannot afford it otherwise to protect their livelihood, their health, and their safety; and

**WHEREAS** ALSC's lawyers in eleven offices around the state serve a population of over 100,000 Alaskans living below 125% of the poverty threshold, including more than 29,350 Alaska Natives; and

**WHEREAS** Alaskans potentially eligible for ALSC's services face approximately 65,000 legal problems each year and ALSC's current resources only stretch far enough to help about 6,300 people each year; and

**WHEREAS** ALSC must turn away over 600 qualified individuals each year with critical legal needs due to its limited resources; and

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

**WHEREAS** although the May 2000 Alaska Supreme Court Access to Civil Justice Task Force Report recommended that ALSC be funded at \$5 million annually (non inflation adjusted dollars), and ALSC's actual funding is far less than that at only \$4.1 million; and

**WHEREAS** several regional nonprofits including: Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Maniilaq Association currently partner with ALSC to support local ALSC offices and staff in the communities of Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks and Kotzebue; and

**WHEREAS** several regional for-profits have provided significant financial and in-kind support to ALSC's regional offices: including Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, CIRI, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Doyon, Ltd, and the Sitnasuak Native Corporation; and

**WHEREAS** several tribal governments including the Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian tribes of Alaska, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, the

Nome Eskimo Community, and Orutsararmiut Native Council have also provided financial support for and partnered with ALSC; and

WHEREAS since 1984 when ALSC received an appropriation from the state of Alaska of \$1.2 Million to serve a population of 41,000 people eligible for ALSC's services, the number of Alaskans eligible for ALSC's help has more than doubled, yet the state's current contribution to ALSC is only a fraction of what it was 30 years ago; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for fiscal year (FY) 2015, approved by Governor Walker, in the amount of \$450,000, which is \$100,000 less than what was appropriated in FY 2014, and is far less than what is needed to assure that all Alaskans have access to equal justice and it is unclear whether this will be sustained in future fiscal years; and

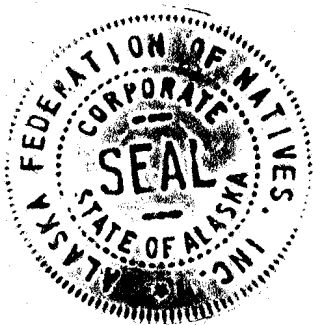
WHEREAS every additional \$100,000 of funding enables ALSC to directly benefit 182 more people; and

WHEREAS during the 29th Alaska State Legislature First Regular Session Senator Lesil McGuire introduced SB 49 and Representative Bryce Edgmon sponsored companion bill HB 154 to allow appropriation to the civil legal services fund from court filing fees to safeguard low-income Alaskans' access to the civil justice system by creating a stable and sustainable mechanism for funding ALSC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the Governor of Alaska to retain and increase the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed FY 2016 budget, and urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding, and urges the Alaska Legislature to pass bills SB 49 and HB 154 to create a stable funding source for ALSC to provide access to civil legal aid, 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.

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

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-38**

**TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR THE PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND VOTER REGISTRATION 2016 BALLOT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 the corner stone of American democracy is the right to vote; and

WHEREAS the state should not introduce needless bureaucratic requirements that make it more difficult for qualified citizens to exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska currently requires individuals who wish to receive a permanent fund dividend to submit an annual application to the state; and

WHEREAS Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) applicants who wish to register to vote, or to update their voter registration, must submit an annual application to the state; and

WHEREAS PFD applicants who also wish to register to vote, or to update their voter registration, must submit information to the state a second time, using a different form;

WHEREAS the state can relieve qualified voters who apply for a PFD from the burden of having to complete additional paperwork; and

WHEREAS the state can use PFD-application data to ensure voter-registration data are current; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives were the last indigenous peoples in the United States to obtain the right to vote in 1924; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives have historically endured and resisted multiple attempts to create bureaucratic barriers to their rights to vote, including literacy laws and insufficient voting infrastructure in rural communities, because of prejudice, bias, and blatant discrimination;

WHEREAS Alaska Natives participate in the PFD application process at rates comparable to the general population of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the ratio of registered Alaska Native voters to total registered voters in Alaska is less than half of the ratio of Alaska Natives in Alaska to the total population of Alaska; and

WHEREAS a nonpartisan group of concerned, motivated Alaskans has introduced a ballot initiative for the 2016 election, entitled the "PFD Voter Registration" ballot initiative, that would that would require the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Division to transmit relevant data for all qualifying PFD applicants who meet the criteria for Alaska voter registration and do NOT opt out, to the Alaska Division of Elections (DOE) each year, in advance of the primary and general elections. The initiative would further require the DOE to match the applicant data to its voter database, update all current voter registrations to match the data provided by the PFD, and create new registrations for eligible PFD applicants not already registered to vote; and

WHEREAS the DOE reports that a 2011 "PFD eligible, unregistered" match with the PFD database showed as many as 70,000 PFD eligible people over 18, who were not registered to vote in AK, with tens of thousands more Alaskans whose registrations are not up to date; and

WHEREAS research reports by the Pew Foundation and other organizations indicate that processing costs for online voter registration are up to 10% less expensive than for print voter registration, and;

WHEREAS the PFD Voter Registration would functionally introduce online voter registration in Alaska, while substantially reducing paperwork and bureaucratic procedures both within government for Alaskan citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN endorses and supports the PFD Voter Registration ballot initiative proposed for the primary or general election ballot in 2016.

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
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-39**

**TITLE:** SUPPORTING VILLAGE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 for many years the high cost of energy in rural Alaska has been recognized as the single largest obstacle to economic development and sustainability; and

WHEREAS while rural Alaska is still a long way from being independent from diesel generated electricity, some rural communities around the state have initiated alternative energy projects, sometimes with little or no federal or state support, that have dramatically reduced electric costs or have the potential to do so, including wind power generation in multiple locations, hydroelectric, and even experimental in-river hydro.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN supports existing alternative energy projects, encourages other communities in rural Alaska to explore appropriate energy solutions, and supports full funding of alternative energy programs in the state and federal arenas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the state of Alaska, U.S. Congress, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other appropriate agencies make funding available for village energy projects; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President





**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-40**

**TITLE:** URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION AMENDING THE ALASKA NATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS ALLOTMENT ACT TO ALLOW DESERVING VETERANS TO OBTAIN ALLOTMENTS OF VACANT LAND WITHIN THE STATE OF ALASKA; AND TO REOPEN AND LEGISLATIVELY APPROVE ALLOTMENTS IN THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 the U.S. Congress authorized the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906 and extended the applicability of the Dawes Act to Alaska Natives to acquire parcels of land in sizes not to exceed 160 acres in size as Native Allotments; and

WHEREAS before the 1971 repeal of the Alaska Native Allotment Act, few allotment applications had been filed or approved because most rural Alaska Natives did not learn of the opportunity for an allotment until 1970 when the federal government initiated an effort to inform and assist potential allotment applicants; and

WHEREAS many Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans did not have the opportunity to apply for allotments before the Alaska Native Allotment Act was repealed because they were serving in the military before, during, and after the period when the government informed Alaska Natives about the opportunity for allotments; and

WHEREAS only 245 Alaska Natives applied for Native allotments during the first 64 years of the existence of the Native Allotment Act as it applies to the Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS Southeast Alaska is within the Tongass National Forest and the Glacier Bay National Park – all of which restricts “any” Southeast Alaska Native veterans from reclaiming their land (allotment); and

WHEREAS the U.S. Congress enacted 43 U.S.C. § 1629g, commonly referred to as the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act, in 1998 to allow certain veterans a chance to apply for allotments, but the numerous restrictions in this Act, restrictions that were not in the Alaska Native Allotment Act, have unfairly disqualified the majority of the applications filed and discouraged many from applying; and

WHEREAS amendments to the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act that provide a fair opportunity for Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to obtain allotments were

previously introduced in the U.S. Congress to remove many of the obstacles preventing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans from obtaining an allotment; and

WHEREAS basic Justice will also be served by the Congress enacting legislation that will allow approximately 300 allotment cases closed under the federal court decision in *Shields v. United States*, 698 F.2d 987 (9th Cir. 1983), to be reopened and approved; and

WHEREAS given that land in Southeast Alaska was withdrawn for the Tongass National Forest by 1909 and that allotment applications are required to “use” land claimed for an allotment before that land was withdrawn has resulted in an unfair distribution of allotments statewide, with few in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS the federal court, in *Shields v. United States*, decided that the “use” requirement meant the applicant’s personal use of the land before it was withdrawn, not use by the applicant’s ancestors; and

WHEREAS Congress did not define the word “use” in the Alaska Native Allotment Act but could do so now by legislation that defines use to include ancestral use, which would be applicable to those allotments in Southeast Alaska closed under the decision in *Shields v. United States*.

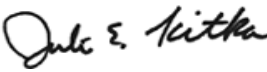
WHEREAS the state of Alaska passed House Joint Resolution 27 in the 24th Legislature which asked for Congress to pass these amendments to the Alaska Native Veterans Allotment Act and for the Tongass National Forest to open so that deserving veterans can obtain their allotments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the Alaska congressional delegation to pass legislation that have already been introduced as H.R. 2387 and S. 1955 which amends the Alaska Native Allotment Act and the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act in order to allow and to provide fair opportunity for more allotments for Native Vietnam veterans and to take actions that would move such legislation forward to a vote in 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Congress is urged to enact legislation that would reopen and legislatively approve allotments in the Tongass National Forest that were closed under the decision in *Shields v. United States*.

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 AND  
NATIVE VETERANS OF SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED

  
Julie Kitka, President





**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-41**

**TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA’S POWER COST EQUALIZATION PROGRAM AND OPPOSITION TO ANY AND ALL EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE THE FUNDING FORMULA BY ANY AND ALL STATE AGENCIES SEEKING TO CAPITALIZE ENERGY PROJECTS UTILIZING THE PCE ENDOWMENT FUND

**WHEREAS** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** the state of Alaska established the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Program in 1985 to help provide economic assistance to rural residents and communities of Alaska by subsidizing a part of the enormous cost of power generation due to high levels of expense of diesel fuel generated power in rural Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** PCE was created from the sale of Four Dam Pool Project and from the Constitutional Budget Reserve and is funded primarily from the interest earnings of the PCE Endowment Fund, Legislative and National Petroleum & Refiners Association (NPR) appropriations, as well as gifts, donations, and contributions from other sources; and

**WHEREAS** without PCE power customers in rural Alaska would pay 3 to 5 times more than the rates of urban Alaska which, in 2014 were at \$0.14 per kilowatt hour; and

**WHEREAS** several proposals have been made to restructure the funding formula by different agencies of the state of Alaska to capitalize projects that will only benefit those residents and communities living within the railbelt/road system in Alaska such as the Susitna Watana Dam Project which has a projected completed cost in excess of \$2.6 billion; and

**WHEREAS** support for funding projects like the All Alaska Energy Grid will benefit ALL of Alaska with low cost energy generated on the North Slope utilizing stranded natural gas driven turbines transmitted throughout Alaska via high voltage, direct current (HVDC) transmission lines; and

**WHEREAS** funding projects for urban Alaska is historically disproportionately more than projects that would benefit rural Alaska.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN opposes all efforts by state agencies to restructure the funding formula of the

PCE Endowment fund to capitalize projects that will benefit only a selected region of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN fully supports the continued funding by the state of Alaska of the PCE Program at current levels or restructuring the formula ONLY if it benefits ALL of Alaska.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHAKTOOLIK
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-42**

**TITLE:** URGING GOVERNOR WALKER AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE CAPITAL FUNDING TO REPLACE THE SATELLITE SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE THAT DELIVERS THE ALASKA RURAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE (ARCS) AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICES TO ALASKANS STATEWIDE

**WHEREAS** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** the state of Alaska's (SOA) public communications satellite infrastructure is used to deliver important audio and video content to communities and entities across the entire state; and

**WHEREAS** satellite infrastructure provides a critical link in public communications, facilitating delivery of news, public affairs, legislative and other state government content, public service information, entertainment, education, and state and federal emergency alert services to communities statewide; and

**WHEREAS** satellite infrastructure represents a partnership between state agencies, public broadcasters, educational entities, and local communities in remote and rural areas. Among the services carried on this unique piece of infrastructure are:

- Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS), the state's low power rural television service
- Alaska Public Media's public television service, Alaska Public Television (APT)
- University of Alaska Television (UATV)
- Alaska Public Radio Network (APRN)
- Public radio station feeds to distant radio translators
- Audio feeds for public radio stations who would otherwise be cut off from such services
- Emergency alerts and warnings distributed in real time to all regions of the state; and

**WHEREAS** ARCS reaches out to 185 remote communities across Alaska with daily news and information, educational programming, coverage of important statewide events, and a mix of both commercial and non-commercial television programming, as the only source of such programming for many rural Alaskans; and

WHEREAS the statewide public television service originating at KAKM Anchorage and in partnership with KTOO Juneau and KYUK Bethel is distributed by satellite and broadcast throughout the state, providing rural viewers with Alaskan and national non-commercial programming; and

WHEREAS UATV distance education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus distributes classroom and other programming to rural communities and campuses; and

WHEREAS public radio services are delivered and exchanged among 26 public radio stations and translators and the Alaska Public Radio Network (APRN) reaching a total of 95% of Alaska's population.

WHEREAS satellite infrastructure provides unmatched reach to remote sites and is designated and used as a State Satellite Relay Network by the SOA Emergency Alert System Plan, distributing to the farthest corners of the state all of the SOA Emergency Alert System (EAS) alerts including alerts that warn residents about tsunamis, major storms, wild land fires, and child abductions; and

WHEREAS all of the original uplink infrastructure equipment was replaced by Alaska Public Broadcasting, Inc. in 2006; and

WHEREAS this core infrastructure has performed at a high level, but is now in its 9th year of service, is no longer supported by the manufacturer and is beginning to experience component level failures making continued service dependent upon backup systems; and

WHEREAS services will be significantly jeopardized when further failures occur, or when backup components fail; and

WHEREAS the uplink system now requires replacement before catastrophic failure renders it inoperable; and

WHEREAS previous requests for capital funds to replace this system before failure have not resulted in positive results.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges Governor Walker the Alaska State Legislature to provide capital funding to replace the satellite system infrastructure that delivers the Alaska Rural Communications Service and Public Broadcasting Services to Alaskans statewide.

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

SUBMITTED BY:  
COMMITTEE ACTION:  
CONVENTION ACTION:

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES  
PASSED  
PASSED AS AMENDED



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie E. Kitka'.

Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-43**

**TITLE:** URGING GOVERNOR WALKER AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE ALASKA RURAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, SATELLITE SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC BROADCASTING BE FULLY FUNDED TO CONTINUE OPERATIONAL SERVICE

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 the Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS) provides free, over-the-air television service to approximately 185 rural and isolated Alaska communities and remains a primary, affordable information source for many users; and

WHEREAS ARCS, a television service formerly known as RATNet, is owned and operated by the state of Alaska, and the state relies on it as part of its emergency broadcast system; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska has operated ARCS in partnerships with rural village community organizations and urban television broadcasters for over three decades; and

WHEREAS ARCS continues to provide a valuable service to bush Alaska, especially the most vulnerable and at-risk residents in remote areas, as a free-to-watch over the air television service; and

WHEREAS ARCS delivers vital weather and emergency information, as well as news, public affairs, entertainment and educational programming in some of Alaska's most remote and economically depressed regions; and

WHEREAS through an fiscal year (FY) 14 Capital Appropriation, the state of Alaska is in the process of converting all ARCS's transmitters in the villages from analog to digital; which AFN Convention supported via Resolution 2012-34; and

WHEREAS the satellite infrastructure delivers ARCS, public broadcasting, and University services and emergency alerts to residents statewide; and

WHEREAS the Digital Conversion Project delivers improved and increased programming to ARCS viewers with no additional operating costs, implements new electronics to replace aging equipment, and maximizes use of the ARCS satellite infrastructure; and



WHEREAS the state of Alaska's initial investment in RATNet produced three decades of service to bush and rural Alaska that continues as ARCS today; and the new digital ACRS technology increases availability of public broadcasting content and services to many residents for the first time; and

WHEREAS public broadcasting in Alaska provides over the air non-commercial public service programming to un-served and underserved audiences throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS public broadcasting provides an unparalleled level of local public service programming including local news; weather and marine conditions; community information; emergency, health and safety information; music and public affairs programming; and live event coverage; and

WHEREAS public broadcasting serves bush and rural communities where commercial service does not exist. Service in the bush is provided by originating stations based in bush and rural communities and by urban stations with equipment in remote areas; and

WHEREAS public broadcasting's public safety mission is reflected in participation in the statewide Emergency Alert System (EAS), which for many is a primary source of local, statewide and national emergency declarations; and

WHEREAS public broadcasting's education mission is reflected in the high quality of its children's programming, educational outreach in the community, and lifelong learning opportunities for all ages; and

WHEREAS public broadcasting's local service mission is characterized by local ownership, local control of programming, deep community engagement; strong partnerships with many community organizations; and

WHEREAS the collaborative relationship between the state of Alaska, the public communications services it supports, and the residents in rural and urban Alaska communities who depend on those services every day, represents a unique and valuable partnership worthy of strong support.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges Governor Walker the Alaska State Legislature to ensure the Alaska Rural Communications Service, Satellite Services, and Public Broadcasting are fully funded so that residents in bush and rural Alaska continue to receive these fundamental radio and television services.

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

SUBMITTED BY:  
COMMITTEE ACTION:  
CONVENTION ACTION:

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES  
PASSED  
PASSED AS AMENDED



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-44**

**TITLE:** CALL FOR AMENDMENT TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO SUPPORT THE RETURN OF SACRED OBJECTS TO TRIBES

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 Alaska Native and Native Americans universally believe that our ceremonial objects are imbued with spiritual dimensions and are sacred; and

WHEREAS we believe that we must seek the return of our sacred objects to ensure and restore social and spiritual balance and harmony within our tribes; and

WHEREAS many sacred objects were alienated or stolen from tribes during a period when the public policy of the federal government held that Native traditions and beliefs should be suppressed, and a common assumption was that Native cultures would cease to exist; and

WHEREAS past federal policies also encouraged settlers to displace tribes by settling on tribal lands and federal land management policies generally failed to prevent the looting of Alaska Native and Native American sacred sites and the sale of sacred objects by unscrupulous collectors; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives and Native Americans successfully sought the enactment of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA), under which certain cultural objects including sacred objects that are held by museums or federal agencies must be returned to their original Native owners; and

WHEREAS NAGPRA does not reach private collections and private collections are a significant remaining source of Alaska Native and Native American sacred objects;

WHEREAS Alaska Natives, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, with the support of private foundations, have sought to obtain sacred objects when they are sold on the private market, often at great expense; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives, Indian tribes and tribal organizations have found that the owners of sacred objects generally expect to receive from the tribe or any other prospective buyer the fair market value of the sacred object; and

WHEREAS in 1983, Congress passed the Indian Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act, which exempts charitable contributions of money or property to Indian tribes from federal

income, estate, and gift taxes, 26 U.S.C. §7871(a)(1)(A)-(C), thereby allowing an individual to contribute a sacred object to a tribe and deduct the value of the donation from the individual's taxable income; and

WHEREAS Alaska Natives and Indian tribes have found, in their efforts to seek the return of sacred objects, that current owners of sacred objects are generally unwilling to "abandon their investment" by donating sacred objects to tribes in exchange for a tax deduction, though many individuals also have expressed a preference for selling the object to its rightful Native American owner rather than on the private market; and

WHEREAS the individual owner of a sacred object who wishes to see the object returned to its rightful tribal owner has only two options available: Either donate the object to the tribe, in which case the current owner must shoulder a significant financial burden, or sell the object to the tribe for fair market value, in which case the tribe must shoulder the entire financial burden; and

WHEREAS Congress is in a position to provide a third option to the owners of sacred objects and the hundreds of Indian tribes that wish to reclaim these objects; and

WHEREAS this proposal is congruent with the existing federal tax deduction for contributions of property to Indian tribes, allows current owners of sacred objects to receive the after-tax fair market value of a sacred object furnished to a tribe, and significantly reduces the cost to the tribes of obtaining the sacred object.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN hereby conveys and requests the Alaska congressional delegation to advocate and support federal legislation that amends the Internal Revenue Code to:

1. Make income from the sale of a Native American sacred object ordinary income rather than capital gains income, thereby discouraging investors from buying sacred objects as investments.
2. Provide a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the sacred object without reducing the deduction by any payments made from the tribe to the owner under the proposed amendment.
3. Require the owner of the sacred object to recognize any payment received as ordinary income to the extent the payment exceeds the owner's basis in the property.
4. Allow these rules to apply so long as the payment from the tribe to the owner of the property does not exceed the after-tax fair market value of the property minus the tax benefit of charitable contribution.

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

SUBMITTED BY:  
COMMITTEE ACTION:  
CONVENTION ACTION:

SEALASKA CORPORATION  
PASSED  
PASSED AS AMENDED



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-45**

**TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE REVIVAL OF THE ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD IN RURAL ALASKA VILLAGES

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** historically, Native Americans, including Alaska Natives, have the highest record of serving in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces on a per capita basis when compared to other ethnic groups; and

**WHEREAS** during World War II the Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG), more commonly known as the Eskimo Scouts, was organized in 1942 as a military reserve force as a component of the U.S. Army in response to attacks on United States soil in Hawaii and occupation of some parts of Alaska by Japan during World War II; and

**WHEREAS** the ATG operated until 1947 with a recorded membership of 6,368 volunteers, almost all of whom were Alaska Native men and women, and they served in active duty without pay during World War II; and

**WHEREAS** the Territory of Alaska became state of Alaska in 1959; and

**WHEREAS** the state of Alaska, upon becoming a state in the United States of America, organized the Alaska National Guard and recruited the Alaska Natives living in rural Alaska to join the Alaska National Guard; and

**WHEREAS** the members of the National Guard located in the villages in rural Alaska served as role models for the Alaska Native youth who looked forward to the day they were 18 years old so that they could join the National Guard; and

**WHEREAS** the membership of National Guard living in villages in rural Alaska dwindled drastically to a point where the National Guard does not exist in some villages; and

**WHEREAS** the members of the Transitional Team on National Guard recommended the revival of the National Guard in rural Alaska at least to its previous levels; and

**WHEREAS** it was reported by the Alaska Dispatch News that President Barrack Obama supports the revival of the Alaska National Guard in rural Alaska.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by that the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN hereby urges U.S. President Barack Obama to work with Alaska Governor Bill Walker and Alaska Lt. Governor Byron Mallott to find ways and take necessary

steps, including working with the U.S. Congress, to assist the state of Alaska in reviving the National Guard in Alaska Villages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN hereby urges Governor Bill Walker and Lt. Governor Byron Mallott to take necessary steps to revive the National Guard in rural Alaska villages to at least the previous levels they were before the National Guard dwindled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to support this effort by the Walker-Mallott Administration.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	NATIVE VETERANS OF SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-46**

- TITLE:** IMMEDIATE RELEASE AND DECLARATION OF INNOCENCE OF THE FAIRBANKS FOUR
- WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** in 1997, fifteen year old, John Hartman was brutally murdered in Fairbanks, Alaska; and
- WHEREAS** four young Native boys – Marvin Roberts, Eugene Vent, Kevin Pease, and George Frese, now commonly referred to as the Fairbanks Four – were wrongly convicted of murder and have spent the last eighteen years in prison. A grassroots effort has developed to free these men; and
- WHEREAS** the Fairbanks Police Department arrested the Four without probable cause. Immediately the media convicted the Four in the eyes of public, depicting them as criminals, often chained together awaiting the hearings; and
- WHEREAS** the Fairbanks Police Department and the Alaska District Attorney’s office conducted an unethical and incomplete investigation and prosecution of the Four. Detective Aaron Ring preyed on Native youth, using illegal interrogations and fabricated evidence; and
- WHEREAS** there has never been any physical or direct evidence tying the Four to the brutal murder. At the time, the key witness of the state, a vulnerable Native facing criminal action and suffering from mental illness, testified only to the fact he saw the four together that night. He has since testified the detective and prosecutor involved, wrote and coached his testimony and he was asked to memorize it. Again, state actors preying on a young Native by coercing false testimony; and
- WHEREAS** at the time of the original trial, prosecutor O’Bryant argued that the Native witnesses at the trial testifying to the alibis of the Four could not be trusted because they were Native and “they stick together”; and
- WHEREAS** many in Fairbanks, including the Four’s families, friends, journalists, students, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon Limited, and the Fairbanks Native Association, have tirelessly maintained the innocence of the Four and have advocated for their freedom. The Four have always maintained their innocence, never confessing or turning on each other for personal gain, reduced sentence or parole. The Four



gained the attention of the Alaska Innocence Project, who are now representing them in a Post-Conviction Relief petition; and

WHEREAS on the eve of the Post-Conviction Relief hearing, the state of Alaska inexplicably removed Eugene Vent's attorney of eleven years from the case and assigned an attorney without any familiarity to the case; and

WHEREAS new evidence introduced by the Four at the Post-Conviction Relief includes confessions of two of the alleged murderers. Jason Wallace, in an attempt to obtain a reduced sentence for another murder, confessed to murdering John Hartman. Wallace is currently serving 60 years for murder. William Holmes, serving two life sentences for a double murder in California, confessed to murdering John Hartman. The night of the murder, both men were in a car of five that set-out to beat-up Native people, a common hate crime in Fairbanks, but instead came across John Hartman and brutally murdered him; and

WHEREAS the Fairbanks Police Department has known about the confessions of the true murders for eleven years and have failed to properly investigate; and

WHEREAS additional evidence comes from dozens of Alaskans who corroborate the guilt of the alternative suspects and innocence of the Four; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska has assigned Adrienne Bachman, an aggressive prosecutor to defend their improper and illegal actions of the wrongful and unjust convictions. Under Bachman's direction additional misconduct was perpetrated by the state and testified to by the state's own investigators. These same investigators found no evidence to link the Four to the crime; and

WHEREAS the state's win-at-all-cost mentality to defend these convictions continues the illegal practices comparable to organized crime, yet these state actors are immune and shielded by their status as government officials; and

WHEREAS the wrongful convictions of the Fairbanks Four have perpetuated a lack of faith in the criminal justice system for all Alaskans. Governor Walker and Attorney General Craig Richards have a responsibility to correct the wrongful actions by the state of Alaska, to step aside from their aggressive and likely unethical efforts to defend what has been demonstrated to be a wrongful and unjust conviction, and declare the four innocent; and

WHEREAS superior Court Judge Paul Lyle, hearing the Post-Conviction Relief petition, has the authority to declare the Four innocent.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2015 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives continue to support Marvin Roberts, Eugene Vent, Kevin Pease, and George Frese and the Alaska Innocence Project in their efforts to exonerate and secure justice for the Fairbanks Four.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls for a declaration of innocence and immediate release of Marvin Roberts, Eugene Vent, Kevin Pease, and George Frese.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Justice be asked to investigate the wrongful prosecution of these Native men, the withholding of evidence by the prosecutor and the police department, and the violation of the civil rights of these men.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD ACTION:	PASSED
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-47**

**TITLE:** ELIMINATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** it is incumbent upon all of our leadership - youth, adult and Elders - to live by our cultural values, find ways to help one another, and to have healthy, well, and nurtured people and communities; and

**WHEREAS** substance abuse is becoming close to an epidemic in many towns and villages in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** families, especially the youth and Elders, suffer immensely when family members abuse substances.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the delegates of the 2015 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request Alaska Native Corporations, private non-profits, Tribal Governments, and AFN Directors work together to create a task force with youth to address problems and positive solutions for eliminating substance abuse and illegal drugs.

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** NORTON SOUND REGION/BETTY ANN HOOGENDORN/2015 FAI  
ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

**BOARD ACTION:** PASSED

**CONVENTION ACTION:** PASSED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-48**

**TITLE:** OPPOSE DIMINISHING EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALASKAN STUDENTS

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** it is incumbent upon all of our leadership - youth, adults and Elders - to live by our cultural values, find ways to help one another, and to have healthy, well, and nurtured people and communities; and

**WHEREAS** the state is considering increasing the minimum number of students from 10 to 25, potentially affecting 65 schools and 921 currently enrolled students; and

**WHEREAS** 66.5% of students who would be affected are Alaska Native or have other minority backgrounds, from the Kenai Peninsula to Wasilla, to Diomedes to Pelican City.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2015 Annual AFN Convention oppose any change to increase the minimum student count.

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** BRISTOL BAY REGION/MEGHAN REDMOND, DANA BARTMAN,  
DEBBIE HOSETH/2015 FAI ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE  
PARTICIPANTS

**BOARD ACTION:** PASSED

**CONVENTION ACTION:** PASSED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-49**

**TITLE:** RECOGNITION THAT THE ANNUAL ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE AND AFN ARE VALUABLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKA'S YOUTH

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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** it is incumbent upon all of our leadership - youth, adults and Elders - to live by our cultural values, find ways to help one another, and to have healthy, well, and nurtured people and communities; and

**WHEREAS** many Alaska schools penalize youth when they attend the annual Elders & Youth Conference and AFN Convention by counting their participation against the students maximum allowable absences; and

**WHEREAS** these annual gatherings give Alaska's youth a comprehensive view of current issues facing Alaska Natives both past, present, and future.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the delegates of the 2015 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that Alaska's schools recognize that the annual Elders & Youth Conference and the AFN Convention are both valuable educational opportunities for Alaska's youth, and ensure that students are not penalized for participating by having their time count towards their absences but receive credit towards their requirements, such as in Alaska Studies, for their participation.

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** KODIAK ISLAND AREA/MELISSA BORTON/2015 FAI ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

**BOARD ACTION:** PASSED

**CONVENTION ACTION:** PASSED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-50**

TITLE: DECREASE ALCOHOL ABUSE IN THE HOME

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 it is incumbent upon all of our leadership - youth, adults and Elders - to live by our cultural values, find ways to help one another, and to have healthy, well, and nurtured people and communities; and

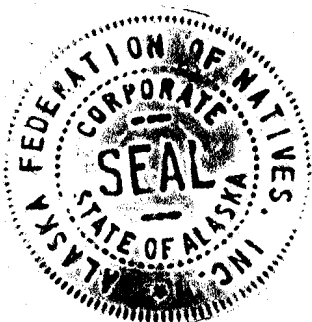
WHEREAS alcohol abuse in the home by parents of children under 18 is steadily worsening; and

WHEREAS there are untold and disastrous results currently, and in the future, for the children in these homes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the delegates of the 2015 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge that the following message be transmitted to our communities and Alaska Native leadership to inspire their dedicated action to protect our children: "A safe environment for the children is necessary when the parents abuse alcohol in the home."

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

SUBMITTED BY: SOUTHEAST REGION/2015 FAI ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS  
BOARD ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



Julie Kitka  
President



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-51**

**TITLE:** SOBRIETY, PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION, SUBSTANCE ABUSE DETOX AND TREATMENT INTERVENTIONS: A CALL TO ACTION

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 it is incumbent upon all of our leadership - youth, adults and Elders - to live by our cultural values, find ways to help one another, and to have healthy, well, and nurtured people and communities; and

WHEREAS we recognize that the impacts of intergenerational historical trauma have resulted in ongoing challenges with substance abuse negatively impacting the lives of some individuals, families, and communities of our Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS there is a lack of assessment, planning, access, funding and care of culturally relevant detox and substance abuse treatment services, and this lack of care is resulting in a disconnect with our cultural values, and causing harm to our Elders, our children, our families, our schools, our businesses, and our communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the delegates of the 2015 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, to live our cultural values, claim the second Monday in October as a statewide Day of Sobriety; we resolve to form a task force to help create regional and statewide plans to identify the funding and delivery system of culturally relevant approaches to substance abuse treatment and holistic wellness; and we send out a call-to-action to our elected officials at local, regional, and state levels to work more closely with this task force, our Tribal Governments, Villages, and Alaska Native Corporations to design a more accessible and culturally appropriate behavioral health continuum of care from prevention and early intervention to detox and treatment services that are equitably funded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution, once accepted through consensus by the delegates of the 2015 Annual AFN Convention be transmitted to the State Legislature, and the Governor's office.

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

SUBMITTED BY:

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION AND NORTHWEST ARCTIC REGION/2015  
FAI ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

BOARD ACTION:

PASSED

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASSED



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Julie E. Kitka'.

Julie Kitka  
President





**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 15-52**

**TITLE:** REMOVE STATE OF ALASKA RESTRICTIONS ON OUR ALASKA NATIVE WAYS OF LIFE – HUNTING, FISHING, HARVESTING, AND GATHERING

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit 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 it is incumbent upon all of our leadership - youth, adults and Elders - to live by our cultural values, find ways to help one another, and to have healthy, well, and nurtured people and communities; and

WHEREAS the state of Alaska has imposed many restrictions on our Alaska Native ways of life – hunting, fishing, harvesting, gathering (often referred to as subsistence); and

WHEREAS those restrictions are adversely effecting the survival of village life, forcing people out of the village into city life.

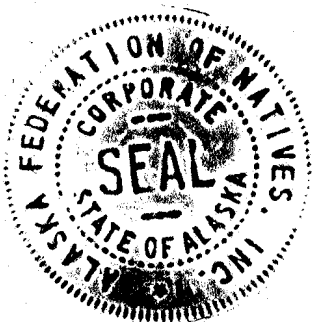
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2015 Annual AFN Convention that in order to avoid further out migration of villagers into larger cities, a committee must be formed to review all state laws and regulations that impose restrictions on our ability to participate in our ways of life, remove out-dated laws, and find ways to remove inequitable enforcement on our ways of life by state of Alaska agencies.

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** SOUTHEAST REGION/2015 FAI ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

**BOARD ACTION:** PASSED

**CONVENTION ACTION:** PASSED



Julie Kitka  
President