



# 2016 ANNUAL AFN CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

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## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-1

TITLE: A RESOLUTION THANKING GOVERNOR BILL WALKER FOR DROPPING THE STATE'S LITIGATION AGAINST "LAND INTO TRUST" IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native Community; and

WHEREAS: For many years the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) excluded Alaska tribes from regulations that governed the taking of land into trust for tribes elsewhere in the United States; this regulatory ban was ended by the BIA following a 2013 federal district court decision in *Akiachak Native Community v. U.S. Secretary of the Interior* that the ban was invalid as arbitrary and capricious; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska had intervened in the *Akiachak* case to oppose any taking of land into trust in Alaska and had continued appellate litigation even after the BIA regulation changed; the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the state on July 1, 2016, leaving the state with an August 15 deadline for appealing to the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS: On August 15 the Alaska Attorney General's Office announced the state would not be bringing further appeals against land into trust, representing a significant political shift in regard to state-tribal relations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN thanks Governor Walker for dropping the state's appeal of the decision allowing land into trust 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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.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:  
COMMITTEE ACTION:  
BOARD ACTION:  
CONVENTION ACTION:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DEFER TO BOARD  
ADOPT AND SEND TO THE FLOOR AS A BOARD RESOLUTION  
PASS



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

# SUBSISTENCE



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-2

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE PARTICIPATION OF THE STATE OF ALASKA IN CO-MANAGEMENT OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER'S SALMON RESOURCES WITH THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) is comprised of thirty-three federally recognized sovereign tribes in western Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The KRITFC and the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife entered into a memorandum of understanding on May 11, 2016, defining the rationale and parameters of co-management for salmon for the respective partnership; and
- WHEREAS:** Full participation in the same process by the State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, would create a unified management system as well as enhance communication and improve management of the Kuskokwim River salmon for all residents; and
- WHEREAS:** It is in the best interests of fisheries resources and subsistence users' river-wide and river-long that unified management of the Kuskokwim River's salmon be instituted as soon as possible
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports the effort by the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and request the State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game to join the process.
- 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 AVCP  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



Julie Kitka

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

President

# HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-3

- TITLE:** SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** 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 American Indian and Alaskan Native (AIAN) 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, 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:** Despite the many successes over the past 15 years with NAHASDA housing programs, AIAN housing conditions remain inferior to almost every relative national metric, and demand for affordable housing remains unmet in nearly every Alaskan community; and

WHEREAS: Annual funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) authorized pursuant to NAHASDA has remained flat at around \$650 million since FY 2010, while housing needs and shortages continue to rapidly grow; and

WHEREAS: Using the Social Security rate of inflation, the compounded inflation rate since NAHASDA's inception in 1998 has reduced the purchasing power of a \$650 million appropriation by approximately 50%; and

WHEREAS: Safe, affordable, quality housing is the very foundation for sustainable, healthy communities and the underpinning of success for most BIA and IHS programs; and

WHEREAS: In 2016, BIA received a 7.5 % increase and IHS 3.6 %, while funding for NAHASDA once again remained flat; and

WHEREAS: NAHASDA and other AIAN housing programs have a unique legal and equitable justification for discrete consideration apart from actions taken relative to other federally funded programs within HUD.

WHEREAS: The current guidelines for housing eligibility for Regional Housing Authorities in meeting the needs of our tribes leaving existing houses empty while many applicants are waiting for affordable housing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives that the Administration support and Congress authorize Indian Housing Block Grant (NAHASDA) funding at NO LESS THAN \$700 million, with subsequent fiscal year increases of \$50 million per year until inflationary reductions have been recovered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED and that the Administration support and Congress authorize funding for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) at NO LESS THAN \$100 million.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports an amendment to empower each Regional Housing Authority to determine region-specific eligibility guidelines to meet the needs of tribal members.

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: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-4

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING TO ENSURE ACCESS TO CULTURALLY RELEVANT MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE AT RISK OF SUICIDE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Alaska Native communities do not have adequate treatment for mental health and substance use disorders, domestic violence and sexual assault; and
- WHEREAS:** The suicide rate in Alaska Native communities is one of the highest in the nation; and
- WHEREAS:** The people of the Alaska Native communities experience disproportionately higher rates of suicide; and
- WHEREAS:** Suicide continues to be an urgent social and health concern for Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Collaborative research with community data shows that culturally relevant mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment services can help reduce stigma and promote wellness in Alaska Native communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Local governments and tribes cannot afford to meet the needs of Alaska Native communities through suicide prevention and support services without funding assistance from state and federal sources; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives is in a unique position to advocate for funding for culturally relevant mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for people at risk of suicide in Alaska Native communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports funding to implement culturally relevant mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for people at risk of suicide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and federal funds be distributed without competitive grants funding and without requirements for outside best practices models that restrict access to these resources.

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 LEGISLATIVE AND LITIGATION COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-5

- TITLE:** URGING FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FULL FUNDING FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE'S AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO FULLY COMPENSATED LEASES FOR VILLAGE BUILT CLINIC FACILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 105(I) OF THE INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Village Built Clinics (VBCs) are health care facilities unique to Alaska and consist of clinic facilities historically leased by the Indian Health Service to provide space for the operation of the Community Health Aide Program, which provides essential basic health care services to Alaska Native communities in remote and isolated locations throughout the State where access to primary health care is otherwise severely restricted or nonexistent; and
- WHEREAS:** VBCs throughout the State of Alaska have been drastically underfunded for decades, leading to deterioration of the clinic facilities themselves and the need for our Native villages and health care programs to divert funding from other sources to subsidize clinic maintenance and operation, impacting the level of service that can be provided; and
- WHEREAS:** In a 2015 report, "Village Clinics in Crisis," the Alaska Native Health Board estimated that IHS lease funding covered less than 30% of the operating costs of VBCs statewide, and despite a \$1.8 million funding increase for VBCs in FY 2016, the current funding level of approximately \$6.3 million falls far short of the estimated \$17 million need as identified in the 2015 report; and
- WHEREAS:** Recent court decisions by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (*Maniilaq Association v. Burwell*, 72 F. Supp. 3d 227 (D.D.C. 2014) (*Maniilaq I*) and *Maniilaq Association v. Burwell*, No. 1:15-cv-00152, 2016 WL 1118256 (D.D.C. Mar. 22, 2016) (*Maniilaq II*)) have confirmed that any co-signer of the Alaska Tribal Health Compact (ATHC) that holds title to, a leasehold interest in, or a trust interest in its VBC facility may request that the IHS enter into a lease

for that facility under Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), 25 U.S.C. § 5324(l) (formerly 25 U.S.C. § 450j(l)), and that the Indian Health Service must provide full compensation for such lease pursuant to the criteria set out in implementing regulations at 25 C.F.R. §§ 900.69-900.74; and

WHEREAS: The Section 105(l) leasing authority provides an important avenue for full funding of VBC facilities in Alaska where an ATHC co-signer owns or leases its VBC facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN does hereby urge the Indian Health Service to fully implement its Section 105(l) authority in all facilities for which such a lease is requested by an eligible ATHC co-signer, as expeditiously as is feasible and in full compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory provisions as well as the court decisions in *Maniilaq I* and *Maniilaq II*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AFN does hereby urge Congress to recognize the fundamental need for safe, functional health care facilities in the remote villages of rural Alaska and elsewhere, without which adequate health care services cannot be delivered to Alaska Native people pursuant to the United States federal government's solemn trust responsibilities, and to appropriate without any further delay the full amount of funding necessary for the full implementation of Section 105(l) of the ISDEAA.

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

SUBMITTED BY: MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-6

- TITLE:** REQUESTING INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMPLY WITH THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY'S FINAL RULE FOR ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Resource and Patient Management System – Electronic Health Record (RPMS-EHR) system is the foundational electronic medical record, documentation, and healthcare tool used by tribal and Indian Health Service medical providers across the country; and
- WHEREAS:** The regular upgrading of electronic medical record systems is a healthcare industry standard that is critical to keep up with ever-changing regulatory and medical care needs; and
- WHEREAS:** The lack of regular upgrading of the Indian Health Services' (IHS) RPMS-EHR system has led to regulatory non-compliance and medical care deficiencies negatively impacting the efficient, safe, effective, and coordinated medical care of thousands of American Indians and Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The Registration and Patient Management – Electronic Health Record (RPMS-EHR) system does not meet Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Final Rule for Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (21 CFR 1300, 1304, 1306 and 1311) that was published in the Federal Register on 3/31/2010 and effective on 6/1/2010
- WHEREAS:** The Indian Health Service (IHS) filed a waiver request with DEA to allow for continued electronic prescribing of controlled substances when the new regulations were published while modifications were made to the program (RPMS-EHR) to meet the newly published requirements but never was approved or communicated to healthcare facilities or tribal partners; and
- WHEREAS:** A second waiver request was subsequently submitted by IHS and then denied in writing by the DEA in a letter dated 11/30/2015 and again not communicated by IHS to tribal partners until 10 months after receipt of the denial; and

WHEREAS: In their initial and second waiver requests to DEA, IHS stated that their rationale for the delay requests were to essentially buy time while modifications were made to the program (RPMS-EHR) to allow it to meet the newly published requirements, it appears these waiver requests were made in bad faith by IHS, as is demonstrated by a lack of any systems-related improvements addressing electronic prescribing of controlled substances in a 6-year time-frame; and

WHEREAS: Tribal health organizations (and all Federal IHS facilities) utilizing RPMS-EHR are now in the unfortunate position of having to take a major technological step backwards, requiring physicians to hand-write and sign all controlled substance prescriptions on pen and paper and therefore slowing provider workflow, increasing patient waiting times, increasing prescription error rates and driving down provider and pharmacy staff morale; and

WHEREAS: There are currently no available commercial EHR systems (other than the IHS' RPMS-EHR system) that do not provide for electronic prescribing of DEA Class III-V controlled substances

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN advocate for a solution from IHS Office of Information Technology (OIT) as to the criticality of fixing this issue and demand a timeline for updating the RPMS-EHR to DEA compliance.

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  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-7

- TITLE:** ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY TO REDUCE HUNGER ACROSS ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaskans’ health and well-being is critically tied to food security; and
- WHEREAS:** Hunger is a condition of poverty that affects all regions throughout the state, with roughly 106,000 Alaskans facing food insecurity; and
- WHEREAS:** Food insecurity is defined as the “inability to procure a sufficient amount of healthy food on a regular basis”; and
- WHEREAS:** The prevalence of food insecurity is higher in rural Alaska, where subsistence shortfalls, high food prices, and limited access to a variety of foods provide additional challenges; and
- WHEREAS:** Food insecurity can have detrimental effects on an individual’s physical and mental health, especially children, hindering development and the ability to live a full and active life; and
- WHEREAS:** Research suggests that eating quality meals - especially breakfast – increases test scores, decreases school violence, and lowers the rate of obesity; and
- WHEREAS:** Commercial fishing bycatch across Alaska could be utilized, instead of wasted, to meet the food security needs of Alaskans;
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s anti-hunger network assists Alaskans in need through voluntary participation of members of the food industry, faith-based, tribal, public and non-profit organizations, and private citizens often partnered with state and federal governments. This informal network collects donations, distributes food, and provides relief to thousands of hungry Alaskans every day; and

WHEREAS: Recognizing the struggle many face each day to put food on the table for their families, Alaskans are encouraged to find out how they can contribute their time, efforts, and resources to ending hunger in their communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 AFN Convention that AFN shall address hunger in Alaska by supporting Alaska's anti-hunger network to identify policy and program priorities for food security for Alaskans, and dedicate to fighting hunger by working with agencies to discover and eliminate barriers to providing food to those most in need.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that AFN will support development of community-based food programs to promote self-reliance in Alaska's rural communities.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that AFN will support alternatives and solutions for shipping food to rural and isolated communities that makes food more affordable to purchase, and decreases shipping costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN will advocate for the strengthening and expanding of federal food programs to better serve Alaskans, including the Supplemental Food Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as food stamps), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP, which is Food Bank of Alaska's biggest source of food to rural Alaska), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for kids.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN will advocate for the strengthening and expanding of federal food programs to better serve Alaska Natives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN will advocate for emergency preparedness plans for the state and federal governments to ensure that food readiness in the event of a disaster a component of all plans.

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 LEGISLATIVE AND LITIGATION COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-8

- TITLE: CALL TO ACTION TO END HOMELESSNESS
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: According to a 2015 Beans Cafe survey, roughly 75% of their clients were Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS: Homelessness is a heartbreaking problem throughout Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: According to a January 2015 Project Homelessness Connect Survey, roughly 63% of the respondents to the homelessness survey were Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS: According to Beans Cafe, in 2015, at least 22 Alaska Natives homeless individuals died in Anchorage, and to date, in 2016, at least 17 Alaska Natives homeless individuals have died in Anchorage.
- WHEREAS: To help the homeless Alaska Native population, it cannot be assumed that the state or federal government are going to resolve this issue, and solutions are needed to help the homeless;
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native organizations are obliged to be part of the discussion for pragmatic solutions to mitigate homelessness among Alaska Natives;
- WHEREAS: The limited resources and efforts of social services organizations throughout the state of Alaska must be coordinated to address homelessness in a cost-effective manner; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native Corporations, nonprofits, tribal governments, Alaska housing authorities, AFN and these organizations' leaders have long worked with social services organizations throughout the state to address homelessness; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native organizations are an essential part of the discussion for pragmatic solutions to mitigate homelessness among Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS: Homeless Alaska Natives are family members, relatives and friends.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the delegates of the 2016 AFN Annual Convention that AFN shall call upon all Alaska Native corporations, private non-profits, tribal governments, Alaska housing authorities, and the AFN directors to work with

homeless services organizations with state and local authorities throughout the state to address the needs of the Alaska Native homeless population and shall create a task force to identify and address the needs of the Alaska Natives homeless population throughout Alaska.

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

SUBMITTED BY: AZACHOROK, INCORPORATED  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka  
*Julie E. Kitka*  
President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-9

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RURAL GUARD AND RESERVE ACT OF 2016

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska National Guard (ANG) began as the Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG) in 1942 in direct response to the invasion of the Aleutian Islands during World War II and the ATG was made up of Alaska Natives and others whose mission it was to protect Alaska's coastline and airspace during the war; and

WHEREAS: More than 6,300 Alaska Natives, known as the Eskimo Scouts, enrolled in the ATG during the war and the Eskimo Scouts became a catalyst for the Alaska National Guard (AKNG); and

WHEREAS: The Rural Guard and Reserve Act of 2016 (Act), H.R. 4424, was introduced to authorize the removal of a \$300 reimbursement cap to National Guard members who live in rural areas of a state in which training takes place and who are required to travel to training by boat or plane because of limited or nonexistent vehicular routes or from a permanent residence more than 75 miles from the training; and

WHEREAS: The Act is meant to enhance the participation of rural Alaskans, most of whom are Alaska Native, and to reduce financial disincentives to participation in AKNG training, which barriers disproportionately impact Alaska Natives living in rural communities; and

WHEREAS: As part of its priorities in 2016, AFN recommended a revitalization of the AKNG, in particular, rural participation in the AKNG, recognizing how rural AKNG service members strengthen the United States' national security and provides opportunities for leadership development to thousands of young Alaska Natives; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN acknowledges the history of distinguished service of the Eskimo Scouts in the ATG and the contributions that the Eskimo Scouts made to national security during wartime and to Alaska and, in honor of such, AFN supports the Act to increase opportunities for Alaska Natives living in rural Alaska

to serve in the AKNG, thereby contributing to the security of our Nation, the well-being of the State of Alaska, and the social and economic health of rural 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: NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION, INC.  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



Julie Kitka

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Julie E. Kitka'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name 'Julie Kitka'.

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-10

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXPANDED AND PERMANENT PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION IN ALASKA

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

**WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

**WHEREAS:** The mission of the U.S. Coast Guard is to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests ensuring maritime safety, security, and stewardship; and

**WHEREAS:** Maritime activity in the Bering Strait and the Arctic Ocean is increasing with negative impact on marine mammals; and

**WHEREAS:** Increasing maritime activity in the Bering Straits and Arctic Ocean increases potential conflicts between subsistence and commercial maritime activity and increased search and rescue demands across larger distances in the State; and

**WHEREAS:** The U.S. Coast Guard currently has limited resources to cover the coast of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS:** Increased maritime activity and receding sea ice will require increased U.S. Coast Guard resources to ensure maritime safety, security, and stewardship for all of Alaska; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports the expansion of enforcement by the U.S. Coast Guard across all of Alaska to ensure the protection of subsistence and commercial resources and maritime activity.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that as soon as the ice conditions allow, the US Coast Guard deploy to the Arctic to be available to address issues arising from Climate Change including but not limited to search and rescue operations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to Executive Order 13175, the Coast Guard is called upon to meaningfully consult with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations and to meaningfully engage with other stakeholders in all aspects of the expansion of its presence across 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: NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-12

- TITLE:** RESOLUTION REQUESTING REVIEW OF FOSTER HOME LICENSING BARRIERS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Children are the most precious resource of Tribes and the cornerstone of our survival as sovereign nations; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native children are disproportionately represented in the State of Alaska foster care system: although the state population is only 15% Alaska Native, the percentage of Native children in state custody is 55%; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native children in state custody are less likely to be reunified with a parent than non-Native children – 50% compared to 65%; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite ICWA’s clear direction to the Office of Children’s Services (OCS) to diligently seek Native foster homes for Native children, OCS places the majority of Native children in non-Native homes – many of which become adoptive homes; and
- WHEREAS:** The percentage of Native foster children placed in Native homes has actually gotten worse in the past ten years: down from close to 50% to 44%; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal-state collaboration groups have worked hard to recruit additional Native foster homes, but the effects of institutional racism hamper these efforts: over-policing of certain Native communities, disproportionate representation of Alaska Natives in the justice system; historical mistreatment of Native families by state social workers, historical trauma caused by colonialism and boarding school atrocities, unconscious bias in the foster care and justice system, and failure to provide sufficient resources to support kin care; and
- WHEREAS:** As a result of institutional racism, many relatives of Native children in foster care cannot be licensed or approved as a placement because of past involvement with the state justice system; and
- WHEREAS:** Some of the “barrier crimes” that prevent foster care licensure such as child abuse and assault are necessary and required by federal law, but the State of Alaska has

added many barrier crimes not required by federal law; including arrests, charges, and convictions for a long list of offenses both serious and petty; and

WHEREAS: The state's expanded list of barrier crimes prevents safe and loving Native families from accepting relative, foster, or adoptive placement of Native foster children; and

WHEREAS: The effects of the state's expanded list of barrier crimes extends beyond the child welfare realm and onto other areas of life for Alaska Native people, including employment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the State of Alaska to review the list of crimes resulting in a barrier to placement of Alaska Native children in Alaska Native homes and narrow this list, and to begin by removing crimes not directly related to the health, safety and welfare of children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that in every case where a relative could receive a variance to provide a home for a Native foster child, the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the State of Alaska to inform the relative of the variance option, complete as much of the variance application as possible for the relative, and usher the relative through the process, which can otherwise be foreign and intimidating.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-13

TITLE: RESOLUTION ON WATER & SEWER REFORM

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: According to the State of Alaska, there are 140 communities in rural Alaska that have piped water and sewer systems, 20 communities served by individual wells and septic systems, 10 communities served by closed haul systems; and 29 communities with only a washeteria and no piped water and sewer; there are 3,300 homes in rural Alaska that lack running water and sewer systems; and

WHEREAS: It is critical and urgent to provide first time service for unconnected communities; there also remains ongoing operations and maintenance needs in those communities connected to sewer and water; and

WHEREAS: Tribes and communities must recognize that while the financial need remains tremendous, the regulatory and policy structure of the statewide management system must evolve to allow tribes the ability to include public-private partnerships among their options to drive the management, construction and operation of community infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation estimates the total need to address sewer and water needs, both first-time service and upgrades and maintenance in rural communities in Alaska is \$2.2 billion; of that total, \$1.4 billion is needed to provide first time water and sewer service in communities that remain unserved; and

WHEREAS: An average of \$68.2 million is provided annually and funded by programs within the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Indian Health Service, and the State of Alaska, and is ultimately managed and administered by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium or the State of Alaska; and

- WHEREAS: The Indian Health Service calculates that for every dollar the Indian Health Service spends on sanitation facilities there is a twentyfold return in health benefits; 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: The Indian Health Service is the agency with primary responsibility to address sanitation in Alaska Native and American Indian communities, as authorized by the Indian Sanitation Facilities Act (Public Law 86-121), including ensuring Native communities have safe drinking water and sewage systems; and our tribal health system in Alaska is administered via one tribal self-governance compact by regional tribal organizations and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; and
- WHEREAS: It is currently the responsibility of engineers managed by either ANTHC or the State to administer federal programs on behalf of communities and manage design and construction of systems; and
- WHEREAS: The Indian Health Service Sanitation Deficiency System prioritizes need amongst communities and determines funding it is imperative that communities and regions take an active role in the input of data into the system, ultimately ensuring awareness of how their community is accounted for within the system; and ensuring the accuracy and consistency of data; and
- WHEREAS: Given that multiple federal agencies require their own regulatory structure be adhered to it can take years for a community to see the construction of an entire system as federal partners must piece meal the construction of water and treatment plants, community service lines, and interior plumbing; and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska representatives of the federal agencies understand the importance of working together, and have made improvements such as providing one format and point of application for communities seeking to undertake sanitation projects; however, much more can be done to simplify the regulatory structure for the construction of entire systems and incentivize public-private partnerships, harnessing private sector technology, innovation and financing to address the sanitation needs in our communities; and
- WHEREAS: The development and management of community infrastructure projects are planned independently of each other and are governed by several different federal statutes: housing investment is managed by Indian housing authorities; road construction is managed by regional tribal non-profit organizations; and the construction of sewer and water is managed by either ANTHC and or the State of

Alaska; the coordination of community infrastructure projects can provide maximum benefit from limited resources; and

WHEREAS: The Denali Commission and the Indian Health Service have the authority to accept federal funds from any federal source and utilize those federal transferred funds under their respective authority; and

WHEREAS: The reality is that many of our communities that need water and sewer infrastructure investment are facing the threats of climate change that include eroding coastal and river shorelines, as well as thawing permafrost changing the landscape of rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The General Accountability Office has identified 31 climate threatened communities, of which 12 are looking at relocation, and 184 communities statewide are impacted by flooding and erosion effects; and

WHEREAS: President Obama identified the Denali Commission as the federal agency responsible for coordinating a response to climate change.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that tribes and regional tribal organizations must assume greater responsibility to address water and sewer infrastructure within their own communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tribes and tribal organizations create development plans to coordinate tribal investment in communities amongst regional institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Indian Health Service establish a program that allows tribes to utilize federal sewer and water funding from multiple agencies to support the complete construction of water and sewer systems in communities allowing for a clear path to development, rather than the piece-meal approach.

BE IT RESOLVED that our federal partners in Alaska work with tribes in Alaska to create one unique regulatory structure that will allow tribes the flexibility and innovation to provide water and sewer to residents in our communities; our tribal communities are on the front lines of climate change, and need to innovate now more than ever.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our federal agencies provide focus on the research and development needed for sanitation facilities and in home plumbing to allow for our communities to respond to climate change.

NOW BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that our federal agencies incentivize the establishment of multi-tribal utility organizations to provide tribes more options to achieve sustainable community water and sewer systems operations.

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

SUBMITTED BY:

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

BOARD ACTION:

PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-14

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW TO REMOVE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS PREVENTING REHABILITATED INDIVIDUALS FROM WORKING
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Children, Elders and vulnerable community members maintain a position of utmost importance within the Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native entities, including regional nonprofit corporations and tribes are subject to the well-intentioned federal Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Protection Act (ICPA) and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act (ABCA), which prohibit individuals with certain criminal records from holding certain types of jobs within the organizations, as well as from serving in certain governance capacities that may involve decision-making over the health and welfare of children; and
- WHEREAS:** Historically tribal communities have been a target for perpetrators, with a disproportionate number of individuals with criminal histories moving into tribal communities as there were no mechanisms to conduct background checks to warn the tribes of the individuals' past; and
- WHEREAS:** Unfortunately, Alaska Natives are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, and most all crimes in rural Alaska are directly related to alcohol and other substance abuse; and
- WHEREAS:** When a former addict or offender is able to become a healthy and balanced individual, they often emerge with a criminal history preventing them from working at a tribe or Alaska Native organization based due to the requirements of the ICPA and ABCA; and
- WHEREAS:** Recruitment and retention of qualified individuals by tribes and tribal organizations can be challenging, and this challenge is exacerbated by these statutes, as they do not adequately provide for rehabilitated individuals with a

demonstrated safety record for an appropriate period of time in relation to the crime committed to apply for and hold certain positions, resulting in the unreasonable prevention of employment of individuals who are qualified and able to work, preventing optimal delivery of services, and hindering economic growth in the village; and

WHEREAS: Applying for variances of the State Barrier Crimes Act in order to hire otherwise qualified individuals is a time-consuming and burdensome process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports an initiative to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Protection Act and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act to adequately provide for rehabilitated individuals with a demonstrated safety record for an appropriate period of time in relation to the crime committed to apply for and hold certain positions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests that the Alaska Attorney General and Department of Health and Social Services work with AFN to develop blanket variances for employees of tribes and tribal organizations so that BCU barrier crimes such as Driving Under the Influence or drug offenses do not prevent the hiring of qualified staff to provide services in a structured employment situation, with the understanding that sex offenses would not generally qualify to be part of the blanket variance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby calls upon the State of Alaska and the federal Government to partner with Alaska Native tribes and organizations to collaborate with representatives of Alaska Native tribes and organizations to develop the amendments.

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

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



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-15

- TITLE:** THAT THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE PERMANENTLY REINSTATE THE MONTH OF MARCH AS “SOBRIETY AWARENESS MONTH (SAM)” IN SUPPORT OF ITS DECLARATION OF POLICY UNDER ALASKA STATUTE 47.37.010
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The declaration of policy for the State of Alaska, under Alaska Statute 47.37.010, is "to recognize, appreciate, and reinforce the example set by its citizens who lead, believe in, and support a life of sobriety"; and
- WHEREAS:** Between the years of 1995 and 2006, the Alaska Legislature designated the month of March as Sobriety Awareness Month (SAM) ten times in recognition and support of Alaska Statute 47.31.010; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Alaskans lead, believe-in and support a life of sobriety, universally agreeing that it is a positive, healthy, and productive way of life, free from the devastating effects of alcohol and drugs; and
- WHEREAS:** These same Alaskans comprise a population for which a voluntary census has never previously been taken before to confirm the population exists. The lifestyle choice they have chosen is proof that they are “Living Examples To The Truth”, that life can be lived and enjoyed without having to consume any mood/mind altering substance or beverage; and
- WHEREAS:** Between 1993 & 1995, AFN supported the growing grass-roots sobriety movement in Alaska, and collected more than 10,000 sobriety pledge signatures from men, women and children who claimed the goals of sobriety. These signatures were given to Iditarod Musher for Sobriety Mike Williams, of Akiak, Alaska, who carried these signatures 1,049 miles in the March 1995 Iditarod Sled Dog Race as a symbolic gesture to honor the “serum of commitment” that was needed to help cure alcohol and drug abuse throughout Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1996, AFN learned that no Alaska statute referenced sobriety in accordance with this pledge of sobriety so the Alaska House of Representatives’ Judiciary Chair, Representative Brian Porter introduced legislation under HB523A (1996)

to amend Alaska Statute 47.37.010 with language that recognized, appreciated and reinforced the lifestyle many people voluntarily ascribed; and

WHEREAS: In comparison to the pervasive social-ills caused by alcohol and drug abuse in Alaska, there exists an aggregate population of citizens who lead a life of sobriety, whose lifestyle choice has three societal benefits which include, but are not limited to:

1. An improved quality of life and health for individuals, families and communities;
2. An improved reduction in crime and social ills (e.g., domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, homicide, suicide, etc.) predominately associated with alcohol and drug abuse; and
3. An improved reduction in government spending for local, state and federal treasuries that end up paying for the pervasive social ills caused by and associated with alcohol and drug abuse.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN call upon the Alaska State Legislature to permanently reinstate and annually designate, in perpetuity, the month of March as Sobriety Awareness Month in accordance with fulfilling, in whole or in part, its declaration policy under Alaska Statute 47.37.010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature enact or amend all state grant services and any state grants federal matching requirements for all substance abuse prevention programs, to set aside up to five percent of their annual program budget to help the State of Alaska meet its declaration of policy under AS 47.37.010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska's Governor, his or her Cabinet, and any for-profit or non-profit agency(ies) interested in helping the State of Alaska meet its declaration of policy under Alaska Statute 47.37.010, develop meaningful and respectful methods to collect census data to prove the existence of Alaska's aggregate citizen population by inviting citizens who are willing to voluntarily self-identify as being among many of the Living Examples To The Truth that life can be lived and enjoyed without having to consume any mood or mind altering substances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that from the collected census data be used as a baseline established for Alaska's Living Examples To The Truth population, which can be monitored and documented on a voluntarily basis throughout every Alaska community in order to showcase and appreciate all the positive social outcomes or health correlations that are a direct result of this population's chosen lifestyle, and whose documented and monitored healthy baseline findings can be relevantly added to the Healthy Alaskans 2020 Scorecard (<http://hss.state.ak.us/ha2020/>); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every public and private organization affected by, concerned with, and working toward the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse, be encouraged to pass an identical resolution and publicly invite all Alaska citizens to wear a white ribbon of their choosing during the month of March 2017, Sobriety Awareness Month, as a way to recognize, appreciate, and reinforce those who are truly making a difference by their freely chosen lifestyle of sobriety, which benefits society.

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 REGION, INC.  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-16

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THAT THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DOES NOT FURTHER REDUCE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER (VPSO) BUDGETS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** 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 communities in rural Alaska have crime per capita rates on average of 9.3% which far exceeds the crime rate in urban Alaska of .07%; and
- WHEREAS:** The Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers and the Village Public Safety Officer Program primary support for safety and well-being of rural Alaska communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers and the Village Public Safety Officer Program have each taken significant reductions in their budgets that has resulted in the loss of positions, (DPS 38 and VPSO 12); and
- WHEREAS:** The Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers has made attempts to continue to provide public safety services to as many rural communities as possible by closing urban posts and moving staff to rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The Village Public Safety Officer Program works in a collaborative partnership with 9 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums and 1 borough to provide public safety services in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Many rural communities in Alaska do not have adequate access to public safety services; and
- WHEREAS:** Further cuts to the Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers and Village Public Safety Officer budgets will mean the loss of public safety services in rural Alaska and increasing the crime per capita rates.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 AFN Annual Convention that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to maintain or increase the Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers and Village Public Safety Officer Program budgets that was allocated for State Fiscal Year 2017

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

SUBMITTED BY:	CENTRAL COUNCIL TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS



Julie Kitka

President

# EDUCATION



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-17

- TITLE:** REDUCE INEQUITIES IN THE PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN RURAL ALASKA BY OPPOSING ANY DIMINISHMENT OF EQUAL ACCESS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND FUNDING, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO UNDERFUNDED OR UNFUNDED MANDATES OR INCREASING THE MINIMUM AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Since statehood, disparities in rural public education due to inequitable provisions of educational opportunities, access and funding have caused great concern across the state and have resulted in multiple lawsuits in order to protect rural schools that largely serve Alaska Native students, families and communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Until 1985, rural village schools were wholly funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education;
- WHEREAS:** In 1985, an appropriation rider was inserted into an appropriation bill which prohibits the Bureau of Indian Education from spending money in the State of Alaska
- WHEREAS:** The Federally Recognized Tribe List Action of 1994 prohibits the classifying, enhancing, or diminishing of the privileges and immunities available to other federally recognized tribes
- WHEREAS:** Today, those inequities are again surfacing in policy proposals, discussion, ideas and research in the Alaska State Legislature, other policy makers, and with influential Alaskans contrary to the constitutional mandate for the provision of public education open to all students in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Examples of those policy proposals and discussions that are detrimental to the equitable provision of public education in rural Alaska include but are not limited to: school consolidation (such as forced regionalization of schools, going back to boarding schools, increasing the required Minimum Average Daily Membership), restricting or reducing funding for public education in rural Alaska, cost containment issues making it challenging for rural schools to provide comparable

programing for students in rural Alaska as those provided in urban schools while still trying to meet the same federal and state standards without funding to do so (such as internet provision, costs of energy and infrastructure, transportation), and not removing unfunded/underfunded mandates in the provision of rural education; and

WHEREAS: It is important to understand that there are unjust ramifications to students, families, and communities if even one of these proposed inequitable solutions comes to pass: If there were an increase to the minimum average daily membership [based on 2014 student enrollment numbers] from 10 to 25 students, funding would be cut for 74 rural schools (impacting 982 students, 576 of which are Alaska Native) and an increase to 50 students would cut funding for 116 rural schools (impacting 2,522 students, 1,733 of which are Alaska Native); and

WHEREAS: It is already foreseeable that given the state's current economic downturn, these inequitable conditions will continue, and conversations and proposals that do further harm will solidify into action, thereby exacerbating the already inequitable provision of public education in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: It is short-sighted governance to continue inequities in education for any Alaskan, let alone rural Alaskans that are largely Alaska Native, because not only does it impact a protected class of citizens - which raises constitutional and civil rights concerns - it also contributes to systemic and institutional inequities, as studies show that citizens who do not graduate high school have shorter life expectancies, lower lifetime income, and cost the state hundreds of thousands of dollars each due to increased utilization of government services, as well as critically impacting the provision of public health and well-being, safety, justice, and corrections systems in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The continued provision of inequitable public education for rural Alaskans - or the worsening of it - is not only against Alaskan values as embedded in the state constitution, it is - at its core - an unsustainable, counterproductive model that undermines the strengthening of Alaska into the future by not investing in healthy, thriving students, families and communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 AFN Annual Convention that AFN opposes any action by policy makers or others to exacerbate the inequities in the provision of rural public education, including but not limited to school consolidation/increasing the minimum average daily membership, not funding or underfunding rural schools, and cost containment practices that impact rural Alaska disproportionately compared than other areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN respectfully requests out Alaska Congressional delegation to work with their colleagues to revoke the 1985 appropriations riders so that our small village schools are able to access BIE financial resources to help enable Tribes to achieve self determination in education through Tribal schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to prioritize funding high quality public education for all Alaskans by reducing inequities in the provision and funding of rural schools, honoring the scheduled 2016 increase in the base student allocation from \$5,880 to \$5,930 as a first step, as well as seriously examining and reducing unfunded/underfunded mandates to school districts, finding equitable costs savings and increasing funding for public education in the future.

BE IT FINALLY 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:	PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President

# LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-18

- TITLE:** REINSTATEMENT OF THE ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT FOR ALASKA TRIBES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native Community; and
- WHEREAS:** Subsistence use of resources, such as fish and game, are “Our Way of Life” and are vital to feed, clothe, supply basic subsistence needs as food security, and provide for economic security; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 created the federal Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) to strive to protect, develop, and restore the natural and cultural resources of coastal areas by balancing competing uses of and impacts to these resources; and
- WHEREAS:** The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), which is part of National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), implements the CZMP by providing approval, oversight and funding to state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** One of the primary objectives of the OCRM is to use a comprehensive approach on an ecosystem scale to coastal zone management that works through key partnerships to address the complex management issues facing the U.S. coasts and oceans; and
- WHEREAS:** On June 4, 1977 the Alaska Legislature enacted the Alaska Coastal Management Act (ACMA), which established the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) and is composed of 33 coastal resource districts, which develop and implement their own programs and enforceable policies for the roughly 44,500 miles of Alaska coastline and has national and international significance for its healthy and diverse ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS:** The intent of the ACMP is to provide stewardship for Alaska’s rich and diverse coastal resources to ensure a healthy and vibrant coast that efficiently sustains long-term economic and environmental productivity and it was also intended to

provide a forum for local community involvement in the preservation and development of our coastal areas through the participation of the district programs.

WHEREAS: Project proposals that trigger a review under the ACMP must be consistent with both the statewide standards of the ACMP, as set forth in 11 AAC 110, 112 and 114, and the enforceable policies of the coastal district where the project will occur. This requirement gives the state and coastal districts a powerful tool to: ensure conservation and protection of the habitats and wildlife populations of Alaska's coastal environments; influence federal decision making; and affect the design and approval of projects and lands in the coastal zone; and

WHEREAS: On March 12, 2003, at the request of Governor Frank Murkowski, the Alaska State Legislature mandated the reform of the ACMP that included revising statutes, regulations, district coastal management plans, and other ACMP processes. These changes of the state standards, particularly the Habitat Standards found in 11 AAC 112.300, "revised" the standards to such an extent that no conservation or protection of wildlife habitats can occur, minimized local participation by marginalizing district programs, and eliminated the districts' ability to draft enforceable policies and standards. This ultimately has resulted in the institutional and policy failure of the ACMP and

WHEREAS: The program, which gave the state and local communities greater input into federal permitting decisions, closed in 2011 after the Parnell administration and legislators failed to reach an agreement to reauthorize it.

WHEREAS: The ACMP was the only process we have that streamlines development by bringing all parties to the table, including industry, multiple state agencies, local municipalities, tribal entities and federal agencies. However, the process needs to include Tribal entities in decisions affecting our customary and traditional areas and resources.

WHEREAS: A "consistency determination" under the ACMP could again be a systematic process to assure that state, local and federal regulations and policies work together, and Tribal concerns are considered, so that sensibly regulated and collectively advantageous economic activity can progress.

WHEREAS: The ACMP is irreplaceable as a means for the state to influence federal activities on coastal lands and on the Outer Continental Shelf. When the program was terminated, the state sacrificed dozens of jobs and millions of dollars in federal receipts, but it also surrendered an invaluable tool to shape, according to Alaska's interests, federal decision making on our coasts and off our shores.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the State of Alaska be urged to reinstate the Alaska Coastal Management Program, including Tribal seats (2), for advancing well-managed, broadly-beneficial utilization of our coastal and natural resources.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAN
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-19

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF AN ECONOMIC DISASTER IN GULF OF ALASKA FISHERY DEPENDENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND REQUESTING THE UTILIZATION OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHING REVOLVING LOAN FUND (CFRLF) TO ASSIST AFFECTED FISHERMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES IMPACTED BY THE FISHERIES DISASTER
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Pink salmon are Alaska’s highest volume salmon fishery; and
- WHEREAS:** There is substantial scientific concern that the warm temperatures in the Gulf of Alaska, which raised surface temperatures 2 degrees Celsius, has impacted this vital fishery; and
- WHEREAS:** The stateside harvest of 36 million pink salmon (aka humpies) is far less than the preseason forecast of 90 million and the prior year harvest of 190 million; and
- WHEREAS:** This is the worst pink salmon season in decades; and
- WHEREAS:** Fishermen and their families are in dire financial condition such that they are in fear for paying their bills and their mortgages; and
- WHEREAS:** The entire Gulf of Alaska salmon fishery has been severely impacted, and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska, the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) and the Division of Economic Development (DED) share the primary objective of a strong resident fleet;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN declare that a condition of economic disaster exists in Gulf of Alaska fisheries and other river systems in Alaska..

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Fund (CFRLF) has numerous tools and methods built into it to assist harvesters who may experience financial hardship as a result of poor fishery returns or other unexpected occurrences that may affect livelihoods, and we request DED utilize those tools to the fullest and provide the flexibility to weather the economic storm with the affected fishermen in order to help meet our goal of a strong resident fleet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska is requested to use all available tools, including a request for support from the federal government, to assist the fishermen (boat owners, captains and crew) and their families that have been economically impacted by this fisheries disaster.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives work with the Federal Government to provide financial relief to all fishermen and their families in the Gulf of Alaska.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	KONIAG-KANA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE
BOARD ACTION:	PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-20

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO ALASKAN TRIBES BY FULLY FUNDING 3 ADDITIONAL ALASKAN POSITIONS WITH THE DOE OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The state of Alaska has 153 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofits and tribal consortiums, and 229 federally recognized Indian tribes within its boundaries, which is approximately 40% of all federally recognized tribes in the entire United States; and
- WHEREAS:** The average costs for heat and electricity in rural parts of the state, where the majority of tribal members live, range from \$4/gal for heating fuel and \$.50/kWh for electricity to over \$9.50/gal for heating fuel and \$1/kWh for electricity. These costs are between 500-900% higher than tribes in the lower 48 pay for heat and electricity; and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. DOE Office of Indian Energy currently has a single program manager without staff to work with Alaska's 229 tribes and cover an area two and a half times the size of Texas with limited air and transportation options and in spring 2016 the US Secretary of Energy promised Senator Lisa Murkowski that the Alaskan office of Indian Energy would receive 2 full time staff members by the end of the summer of 2016 and 3 by the end of the year 2016; and
- WHEREAS:** Numerous attempts by Alaskan Tribes to work with DOE offices in the lower 48 have highlighted the lack of knowledge, context and connections of lower 48 staff to the rural energy situation here in Alaska, this can only be improved by additional staffing here in Alaska so that Alaskan tribes are served by Alaskans who are familiar with the situation; and
- WHEREAS:** The Secretary of Energy of the United States Department of Energy promised Alaska's congressional delegation and tribes in Alaska that the US DOE Office of Indian Energy would get additional staff members to fulfill and further its mission by the end of the summer of 2016. It is now Fall 2016 and there have still been no additional staff members added to the DOE Office of Indian Energy Staff in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: There is significant concern across the state that if additional positions are not added or approved before the November 2016 elections there will be further delays; and

WHEREAS: These Department of Energy positions report directly to the Alaska program manager to fulfill the needs of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The authority of the Alaska program manager selecting and filling these positions with Alaskans is vital to the success of Alaska Office of Indian Energy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN requests that the U.S. Dept. of Energy and their Office of Indian Energy immediately dedicate the promised funding to increase Alaskan staff to 3 new full time employees by the end of 2016 and create a full-fledged Alaskan Field Office that can improve the connection, outreach and effectiveness of the DOE in Alaska and allow them to achieve their mission statement and that those positions be located here 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: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-21

- TITLE:** TO CREATE A RURAL ALASKA CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE TO MODIFY THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION FUND TO DEVELOP CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Energy costs remain extraordinarily high in rural Alaska, representing a significant financial burden for rural residents; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native community is significantly affected by the extraordinarily high energy costs in rural Alaska and such costs are a driving factor in causing many Natives to leave their ancestral homes; and
- WHEREAS:** Diesel fuel dependence is one of the primary reasons for extraordinarily high energy costs in rural Alaska and infrastructure investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy (hereafter “clean energy”) can help reduce diesel dependence and high energy costs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Power Cost Equalization (hereafter “PCE”) program has been essential in helping to offset diesel-based electricity costs and maintain quality of life; and
- WHEREAS:** The PCE program was established collaboratively by urban and rural lawmakers to support both urban and rural Alaska energy needs by subsidizing diesel fuel consumption for electricity generation in rural Alaska in exchange for other public investments in urban Alaska energy infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS:** The state of Alaska is in a fiscal crisis and is considering all options to meet its financial obligations and has substantially reduced investments in rural clean energy projects; and
- WHEREAS:** Current clean energy project deployment in a rural Alaska community that reduces diesel fuel consumption also reduces the amount of PCE payment provided to that community and acts as a disincentive for investment in clean energy infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS:** The formula and regulations that determine individual PCE payments could be revised by the Alaska State Legislature to provide a source of investment for clean energy infrastructure development that could be leveraged for additional private

investment by de-coupling the PCE payment from diesel fuel consumption and instead using PCE as a guaranteed energy-related revenue stream to all eligible communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 AFN Annual Convention that AFN calls for the formation of a rural Alaska Clean Energy Task Force by the Alaska State Legislature to draft new regulations and formula for calculating PCE payments such that it becomes de-coupled from diesel fuel consumption and instead promotes private investment in clean energy infrastructure in rural Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that PCE payments to eligible communities do not diminish over time as their diesel fuel consumption declines with deployment of new, clean energy infrastructure, but rather, the PCE payment remains as a guaranteed revenue stream and as an incentive to continue to reduce diesel fuel consumption for both heating and electricity.

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

SUBMITTED BY: AZACHOROK, INCORPORATED  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



Julie Kitka  
*Julie E. Kitka*  
President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-22

TITLE: AFN REQUESTS THE STATE OF ALASKA GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF EROSION OF ALASKA NATIVE LANDS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The erosion is getting worse every year due to climate change which causes the ocean to rise; and

WHEREAS: Alaskan Natives are being displaced; and

WHEREAS: Alaskan Natives are losing their ancestral lands at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS: 86% or 184 out of the 213 Alaskan Native villages in Alaska are affected by erosion; and

WHEREAS: Alaskan Native individuals own less than 1% of land in the State of Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN request the State of Alaska Governors Tribal Advisory Committee to address the effects of erosion due to climate change on Alaska 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: THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF PORT HEIDEN  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-23

- TITLE:** PROTECTING RURAL COMMUNITIES RELIANT ON COMMERCIAL AND/OR SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The National Marine Sanctuaries Act was enacted in 1972 in order to protect significant marine habitats and special ocean areas, and under this act, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to designate and manage certain areas of the marine environment that he or she considers to be nationally significant; and
- WHEREAS:** The Antiquities Act was enacted in 1906 in order to protect significant natural, cultural, or scientific features via the creation of national monuments by presidential proclamation, and only in 2016, the Antiquities Act has been used to create marine national monuments; and
- WHEREAS:** Following the designation of a National Marine Sanctuary or a Marine National Monument, regulations affecting various user groups of fisheries residing inside these nautical areas are promulgated, with some regulations eliminating all aspects of commercial fishing within a fixed time table; and
- WHEREAS:** While public input is a required part of the National Marine Sanctuary process, it is not a required step in the designation of Marine National Monuments; and
- WHEREAS:** Many rural communities in Alaska depend on the proceeds or interaction with commercial fishing and/or subsistence in order to maintain the economic stability of their villages.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2016 AFN Annual Convention that AFN opposes the creation of any National Marine Sanctuary or Marine National Monument that jeopardizes the economic health and vitality of one or more rural communities reliant on commercial and/or subsistence fisheries in Alaska.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the delegates mandate tribal consultation and engagement with Alaska Native individuals and organizations that may be impacted prior to designating Marine National Monuments and Sanctuaries 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:	ST. GEORGE TANAQ CORPORATION
BOARD ACTION:	PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS



Julie Kitka

President

# ECONOMIC



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2016 Annual Convention  
Resolution 16-24

- TITLE:** URGING A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE RURAL ALASKA AIR TRAVEL AND AIR AND MARINE FREIGHT INDUSTRIES WITH A GOAL OF FINDING FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE AIRFARE/FREIGHT PRICES BY 25-50% AND INCREASE RURAL AIR TRAVEL SAFETY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The air travel and air and marine freight industries are the primary infrastructure travel grid for most almost all communities in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The air industry in general is one of the most challenging industries in the world to operate in, which is further compounded by the rugged terrain and extreme weather conditions encountered throughout Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Many times prices for airfare between urban Alaska hubs and rural Alaska communities rival that of national and international flights; and
- WHEREAS:** A reduction in freight costs throughout the state could significantly reduce the costs of living in our rural communities; and
- WHEREAS:** A thorough strategic study of all facets of the travel/freight industries could yield significant clarity on possible innovative measures that can be undertaken by either industry participants or state government that can improve the business model for industry participants,
- WHEREAS:** The study can compile data on factors such as: total industry size and analysis of industry participants, business model analysis, supply & demand characteristics in each region, industry support services, industry financial revenue/income averages, a database of airfare/freight prices throughout the state, average fuel usage, governmental regulation and data on the current aircraft fleets of industry participants; and any other areas of focus that may be strategically critical; and
- WHEREAS:** The study can also evaluate innovative safety technologies such as BRS Whole Plane Parachute Systems, Enhanced Vision Systems (EVS, FLIR infrared cameras), Synthetic Vision Systems (SVS, three dimensional modeling imaging) and any other “game changing” technology that can improve safety and reduce plane crash incidents; and

WHEREAS: The study can also research the viability of a state tax credit program for rural Alaska air industry participants (for capital costs, fuel or other operating costs and safety technology), and whether the tax credit program can possibly create an end-result of 25-50% price reductions; and

WHEREAS: A reduction of prices for air travel and freight throughout rural Alaska by 25-50% would truly be a revolutionary improvement for Alaska and a huge step in creating self-sufficient and sustainable rural communities.

WHEREAS: The cost of travel and freight for basic life necessities such as health, wellness and food security are severely affected and impeded across Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN seek a comprehensive study of the rural Alaska air travel and air and marine freight industries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if said study outlines feasible innovative measures (such as a state tax credit program or any other ideas that may emerge during the study) have a high likelihood of success in reducing travel/freight prices significantly in rural Alaska, the Alaska Legislature adopt such measures within a 3-5-year timeline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to include and involve those local agencies, tribes, municipalities, and nonprofits throughout the entire process.

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  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka

President

## **ANSCA/TRIBAL**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-25

- TITLE:** CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PROVIDE TRIBAL COURT FUNDING FOR TRIBAL NATIONS IN PUB. L. 280 STATES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal nations rely on tribal courts in the exercise of their inherent tribal sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal courts allow tribal nations to address civil matters and public safety concerns in a way that is more responsive, culturally appropriate, and attuned to local concerns than a state court system; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal courts provide a front line defense to protect Native children while keeping Native families together through the application of the Indian Child Welfare Act; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides funding to tribal courts located in non-Pub. L. 280 states but the Bureau of Indian Affairs chooses not to provide funding to tribal courts located in Pub. L. 280 states; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs cites a lack of funding for its reason in deciding not to allocate resources to tribal courts in Pub. L. 280 states; and
- WHEREAS:** This leaves tribal courts in Pub. L. 280 states with little to no funding to perform their essential functions; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress has shown a deep concern regarding the lack of resources available to tribal courts in Pub. L. 280 states; and
- WHEREAS:** Pursuant to the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 Congress directed the Bureau of Indian Affairs in coordination with the Department of Justice to prepare a report on the budgetary needs of tribal courts located in Pub. L. 280 states, *see* 160 Cong. Rec. H9764-5 (Dec. 11, 2014); and

WHEREAS: The report concluded that “the budgetary cost estimate [for the BIA to fund] tribal courts in P.L. 280 states at a level consistent with BIA-funded Tribal Court programs in non-P.L. 280 states is \$16.9 million;” and

WHEREAS: The appropriation of this \$16.9 million would provide a crucial lifeline to tribal courts in Pub. L. 280 states that are currently operating without federal funds while not impacting tribal court funding to tribal courts located in non-Pub. L. 280 states; and

WHEREAS: The tribes wish to acknowledge the initiative and success of Senator Lisa Murkowski in securing a FY 16 appropriation for tribal courts in PL 280 states.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN calls on Congress to appropriate \$16.9 million for tribal court funding in Pub. L. 280 states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should explicitly state that this funding be directed to tribal courts in Pub. L. 280 states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tribal nations in Pub. L. 280 states should be able to access the entirety of this funding through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to use in a manner that tribal nations decide best suits the needs of their tribal courts; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



Julie Kitka

President

**OTHER**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-26

- TITLE:** RESOLUTION DEMANDING THE STATE OF ALASKA ADEQUATELY COMPENSATE THE FAIRBANKS FOUR FOR THE 18 YEARS THEY WERE UNLAWFULLY IMPRISONED
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** After a diligent investigation by the Innocence Project and five weeks of trial on the inadequacies of the original investigation, the Fairbanks Four were released from prison on December 17, 2015 after spending 18 years in prison; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska required the men known as the Fairbanks Four to give up their right to sue the state and withdraw their claims of prosecutorial misconduct in order to be released prior to the judge's final decision on the post-conviction relief case, a decision that the judge informed the men and the public could take him upwards to a year to decide; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska did not offer the men any type of compensation in return for the time spent in prison; and
- WHEREAS:** George Frese, Eugene Vent, Marvin Roberts and Kevin Pease were released without money, housing, transportation, psychological/counseling services, or workforce skills; and
- WHEREAS:** Attempts were made last session through the legislative process via House Bill 55 (Sponsor Kawasaki) and House Bill 243 (Sponsor Lynn) to assign some funding to all Alaskans that have been wrongfully imprisoned and those bills did not make it to the House floor for a vote; and
- WHEREAS:** Both pieces of legislation can be re-introduced in the next legislative session; and
- WHEREAS:** Thirty states and the Federal system offer compensation to people who have been wrongfully convicted; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN support and advocate for the reintroduction and passage of the legislation that was known last session as HB 55 and HB 243; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AFN demand that the State of Alaska provide for the immediate needs of George Frese, Eugene Vent, Marvin Roberts and Kevin Pease, to include housing, counseling, education and legal services; 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:	TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ACTION:	PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-27

- TITLE:** CALLING FOR THE UTILIZATION OF THE ALASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION JUDICIAL REVIEW OF INEQUITABLE BAIL SETTING AND SENTENCING PRACTICES TOWARD ALASKA NATIVE DEFENDANTS AND FOR STATE ACTION TO GUARANTEE ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE RECEIVE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF DEFENSE COUNSEL
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** There is a clear and recognized disparity in the treatment of Alaska Natives in the Alaska adult prison system (including those held in pre-trial facilities). Alaska Natives represent 14.8% of the total population of the State of Alaska but Alaska Natives represent 35.6% of the adult prison population. Alaska Native women comprise 13.28% of the female inmates and Alaska Native men comprise 30.87% of male inmates in Alaska Department of Corrections institutions; and
- WHEREAS:** At AFN's 2015 Annual Convention, AFN Resolution 15-33 (passed as amended) reflected that Alaska's prison population has grown 27% in the last decade; nearly three times faster than the state's resident population. Research supports broader use of community-based treatment and interventions that would benefit Alaska Native defendants as alternatives to long prison sentences; and
- WHEREAS:** There are unwarranted disparities in frequency and duration of the sentences imposed by judicial officers of the Alaska Court System for Alaska Native defendants indicating a troubling and reasonable concern of unfairness; and
- WHEREAS:** The diligent criminal defense staff of the Alaska Public Defender Agency and Office of Public Advocacy have limited resources to provide effective assistance of counsel to Alaska Native defendants in comparison to the unlimited investigative and support resources of state and municipal prosecutors; and
- WHEREAS:** The limited in-person access to legal counsel for Alaska Native defendants in many areas of our state, equates to an overall ineffective assistance of counsel situation. Because of this and other related factors Alaska Natives are held longer in pre-trial facilities and usually plead guilty to one of the numerous charges heaped upon them often receiving disproportionately harsher sentences for comparable charges of other Non-Alaska Native defendants. The end result

is a grave miscarriage of justice and an unconscionable violation of indigenous civil rights; and

WHEREAS: Furthermore, due to the lack of District Attorney’s resident in rural Alaska there are undue delays in the judicial process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2016 Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention that AFN expresses the utilization of the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission and that an essential judicial review of the inequitable bail setting and sentencing practices for Alaska Native defendants be conducted with urgency and a review of adequate access to legal counsel for criminal defendants be undertaken immediately.

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

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK IÑUPIAT CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMEND AND PASS



Julie Kitka  
*Julie E. Kitka*  
President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-28

- TITLE:** OPPOSITION TO IMPLEMENTATION OF A QUOTA ON CHUKCHI SEA POLAR BEARS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native Community; and
- WHEREAS:** Polar bears are an important subsistence resource for the residents of Point Lay, Alaska. Harvested bears help to meet the nutritional and cultural needs of our residents; and
- WHEREAS:** The area around Point Lay is an important ecological area for polar bears; they use the area for denning, feeding, and traveling. Additionally, there is critical habitat near Point Lay and our residents have an important role in conserving polar bears; and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to establish a quota for Chukchi Sea polar bears because of a treaty between the U.S. and the Russian Federation for the management of Alaska-Chukotka (i.e., Chukchi Sea) polar bears; and
- WHEREAS:** Even though the treaty was signed in 2000 and the U.S. Senate amended the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 2007 to accommodate the treaty, very little information has been provided to our Native Village and community members by the Federal government or the Alaska Nanuuq Commission (ANC); and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as the responsible Federal agency, has the mandate to hold government to government consultation with our tribe about the pending management changes for polar bears but has failed to consult with us even though the treaty was signed more than 15 years ago; and
- WHEREAS:** The ANC is the co-management organization for polar bears in Alaska but they also have not contacted, informed, or consulted with our community. Our current representative has been an ANC commissioner for more than a year but has not received information about the pending quota, the justifications for the quota, or possible law enforcement action related to regulations; and
- WHEREAS:** The treaty-specifics that reliable science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge are supposed to be used for making management decision about Chukchi Sea polar bears, but reliable science and documentation of traditional knowledge about the population status of polar bears are not available; and

WHEREAS: Reducing our ability to harvest polar bears will harm our food and cultural security.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN is opposed to the implementation of regulations, including a quota, for Chukchi Sea polar bears until:

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge has been well documented about the population status and health of Chukchi Sea polar bears and is used for determining an appropriate quota if one is needed;
- Reliable science becomes available about the population status and health of Chukchi Sea polar bears and is used for determining an appropriate quota if one is needed;
- There is clear justification for the need for a restriction on the harvest of Chukchi Sea polar bears; and
- Meaningful and repeated consultation between the Federal Government with the affected tribal governments in western and northern Alaska has occurred.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN seek to restore the Native exemption that once existed within the Marine Mammal Protection Act to hunt Chukchi Sea polar bears.

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 POINT LAY  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-29

- TITLE:** SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A TRANSFORMATIVE TRUTH & RECONCILIATION PROCESS THAT IS BUILT UPON THE VALUE OF HEALING AND ADDRESSES THE ISSUES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (INCLUSIVE OF OUR POLITICAL STATUS AND OUR RACIAL STATUS) AND PEOPLES OF COLOR THEREBY ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY FOR ALL
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** 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:** In order to achieve this we need to bring about collective and personal healing, justice, racial equity, sovereignty exemplified by the pillars of self-determination and self-governance, and impactful, long-lasting policy and community solutions that transform the way our governments' and societies' interact and include us, belong to us as much as any other person in this country, and reflect who we are and our aspirations for our future as indigenous peoples and as peoples of color,
- WHEREAS:** Such a process needs to be designed and led by the community, and requires a multi-faceted, scalable approach that honors a holistic and healing approach, so as not to compound or drain already depleted resources of energy, time, finance, and structure,
- WHEREAS:** Indigenous peoples along with other peoples of color across the country, including Alaska Natives here at home in Alaska, have been calling for a truth and reconciliation process over many years through multiple venues, such as community forums and dialogues, public hearings, social media platforms, formal task forces and commissions testimonies and recommendations, and from people from all walks of life tired, distraught, hurting, and self-medicating their trauma's in unhealthy ways, and afraid for our futures due to the enduring legacies of colonization, slavery, human rights violations, intergenerational trauma, and systemic, institutional, and interpersonal racism that continues to this day,

WHEREAS: We all deserve better, but most importantly and dearest to our hearts, our children and our children's children deserve better.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports the creation of a transformative truth and reconciliation process that is built upon the value of healing and addresses the issues of indigenous peoples (inclusive of both our political status and our racial status) and peoples of color, thereby advancing racial equity for all,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the AFN Council for the Advancement of Alaska Natives will collaborate with First Alaskans Institute to help advance this work.

BE IT FINALLY 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 & PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2016 ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE
BOARD ACTION:	PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-30

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF USE AND SALES OF WALRUS IVORY IN TOOLS, ARTS AND CRAFTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native people have harvested Pacific walrus for millennia as a source of food, clothing, building material, carving medium for tools, arts, crafts; and
- WHEREAS:** Walrus are a source of pride, traditions, stories and dance; and
- WHEREAS:** The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in handicrafts for sale in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Walrus hunting communities and hunters are represented by the Eskimo Walrus Commission which was formed in 1978 by Kawerak, Inc. and represents 19 coastal subsistence walrus hunting communities in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Alaska Native culture today; and
- WHEREAS:** The sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Alaska Natives is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** In efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and
- WHEREAS:** These ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

WHEREAS: These state ivory ban laws may cause residents of those states to face prosecution for buying, owning, or bringing home legally acquired ivory from Alaska; and

WHEREAS: These state ivory ban laws negatively impact Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy;

WHEREAS: AFN joins Kawerak and Eskimo Walrus Commission's stance to oppose the inclusion of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in domestic ivory ban laws; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN encourage the "banning of domestic sales of elephant ivory" and requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory, Whale bone, Walrus Skin, Sea Otter, Seal Skin be exempted from current and future domestic ivory ban laws in the 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 & KAWERAK, INC.

BOARD ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



Julie Kitka

President



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-31

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Julie Kitka

President