



# Monthly President's Report



October 2013

## Dear AFN Co-Chairs, Board Members & Membership,

The few weeks since our annual Convention have flown by here at AFN's headquarters in Anchorage. Last week, the State of Alaska filed a petition to the US Supreme Court in the legal case *State of Alaska v Sally Jewell, Secretary of the United States Department of Interior et al*, widely known as the Katie John Case that is a direct attack on the subsistence rights of our people. AFN issued an immediate response, live with the press. With this report you will find a PDF of the statements delivered by AFN's new co-chairs Ana Hoffman and Tara Sweeney, Subsistence Committee Chair Rosita Worl, and myself.

## CONTENTS

Convention	2
Co-Chairs & Resolutions	2
Awards	3
Journalism Initiatives	4
Subsistence	5
Sponsor Thank You	6
Advocacy	7
Opportunities	8

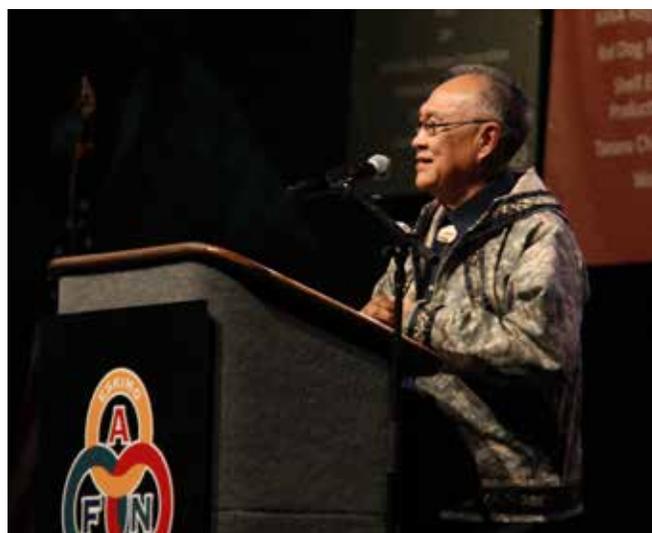
We are mobilizing to fight the state's petition with a renewed sense of urgency, fed by the stark contrast between the Governors remarks before the floor of our annual Convention and his administration's decision to file this petition not two weeks later. We welcome your contributions to AFN's Subsistence Defense Fund to help support our work - with the press, in Juneau and Washington DC, and in the courts.

As we organize around this next chapter in the fight for our subsistence rights, Nelson's Angapak's rallying cry rings in our ears:

*"When is it wrong to fish and feed our families; or, to put this in another way, is it wrong to fish to feed our families? **We say, NO, it is not.** Let us say NO with a united voice, the only way our people are truly heard."*

We must come together now, with strength and clarity. We must know and trust the power our people weild when we confront a challenge united. We must heed Nelson's call, and that of so many of our elders, to fight for what we know to be right.

A PDF of Nelson's full address is included with this report.



# Monthly President's Report



## 2013 Convention Debrief

### NEW CO-CHAIRS

AFN's membership this year voted in two new co-chairs of the organization's board of directors:

**Ana Hoffman** – CEO, Bethel Native Corporation

**Tara Sweeney** – Senior Vice President of External Affairs, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

Ana Hoffman was the candidate with the most votes and will serve a 2-year term. Tara Sweeney received the second most votes and will serve a 1-year term. AFN is moving to staggered terms for co-chairs beginning with this year's election, which means that beginning next year only one co-chair will be elected at each year's annual AFN convention to serve a two-year term.

Four incredible Native leaders from the AFN board of directors were nominated for the position of co-chair:

Ralph Andersen – Current AFN Co-Chair and CEO, Bristol Bay Native Association

Ana Hoffman – CEO, Bethel Native Corporation

Ed Thomas – President, Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Tara Sweeney – Senior Vice President of External Affairs, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

Our deepest gratitude to Albert Kookesh and Ralph Andersen who have dedicated so many years to serving our communities as AFN's co-chairs. Their contributions and leadership have paved the way for a bright future of continued success for our organization and our people.

### RESOLUTIONS

A total of 41 resolutions were passed at this year's annual convention. The full text of all our passed resolutions is included with this report as a PDF. The AFN staff and board have already begun the process of following up on and implementing resolutions.



# Monthly President's Report



## 2013 Convention Debrief Continued

### AFN & PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

Every year AFN honors those who have made outstanding contributions to their families and the Native community -- it never fails to be one of the best and most inspiring parts of our annual event.

AFN recognized three Native community leaders selected for recognition by the AFN board of directors:

**Toni Mallott** - 2013 AFN Citizen of the Year

**Dr. Lawrence Kaplan** - Denali Award

**Robert Marshall** - Elder of the Year

AFN honored the following outstanding individuals as this year's President's Awards recipients:

**Vernon Stickman, Sr** - Dr. Walter Soboleff "Warrior of Light" Award

**Teisha Simmons** - Hannah Paul Solomon "Woman of Courage" Award

**Sally Swetzof** - Culture Bearer Award

**Mildred Black** - Della Keats "Healing Hands" Award

**Dr. Shari Huhndorf** - Eileen Panigeo MacLean  
Education Award

**Glenn Godfrey, Jr.** - Glenn Godfrey Law  
Enforcement Award

**Charles Akers** - Health Award

**Nick Alexia, Sr.** - Katie John Hunter-Fisher Award

**Raissa Boskofsky** - Lu Young Youth Leadership  
Award

**Nancy Cecile Barnes** - Parent of the Year Award

**Peter Captain, Jr.** - Public Service Award

**Kyle Demientieff – Worl** – Roger Lang Youth  
Leadership Award

**Melvin John Kewan** - Small Business Award



# Monthly President's Report



## 2013 Convention Debrief

### NEW JOURNALISM INITIATIVES

Between sessions at this year's Convention, we announced three new initiatives aimed at engaging the media more effectively. The announcement was made during a first of its kind Convention press briefing. We look forward to sharing more and engaging your support as these initiatives take shape in early 2014.

#### **New AFN President's Award for Journalism**

Next year, AFN will add a new AFN President's Award for Journalism to its list of Annual Convention awards. The award will be given to the best Native journalist or the best Native news story of the year (which can be written or produced by either a Native or a non-Native journalist).

#### **New Two-Day Native Media & Policy Summit**

AFN and Alaska Dispatch will convene a two-day Native Media & Policy Summit in 2014 that will explore the news media's portrayals of modern day life for Alaska Natives, American Indians and Native Hawaiians. The first-of-its-kind event in Alaska will also explore the challenges faced by Native journalists as they explore ways to expand their ranks and improve coverage of Native issues in Alaska and beyond. The Summit is expected to take place in Anchorage, and specific dates and a location will be forthcoming. Inquiries about sponsoring the conference are welcome at [smallott@nativefederation.org](mailto:smallott@nativefederation.org) or by calling Ben Mallott at AFN at 907-274-3611.

#### **New Alaska Native Journalism Scholarship Program**

Alice Rogoff, the publisher/owner of Alaska Dispatch, announced the launch of a new Alaska Native Journalism Scholarship Program for Alaska Native journalism students. Eligibility requirements and details about the application process will be posted shortly on the AFN and Alaska Dispatch websites.



# Monthly President's Report



## 2013 Convention Debrief Continued

### SUBSISTENCE

Dr. Rosita Worl, Chair, AFN Subsistence Committee provided a compelling briefing and status report before the Convention floor, with members of the AFN Subsistence Committee: Denise May, Joe Chythlook, Taqulik Hepa, Mary Ann Mills, Myron Naneng, Rosita Worl, Michelle Anderson.

Dr. Worl reiterated AFN's committed to the long-term goal of achieving full and lasting federal protections for the Alaska Native hunting, fishing and gathering way of life, and a co-equal role in the management of fish, wildlife and other renewable resources that form the basis for our economic and cultural existence. She went on to provide a detailed report, available for download [here](#).

Dr. Worl shared that AFN is also working with AVCP and TCC, as well as the Ahtna tribes to advance several demonstration projects.

Myron Naneng and Jerry Isaac shared details about the AVCP/TCC proposal that would create Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions for the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and require the Secretary to enter into cooperative and funding agreements with these Commissions for the conservation and management of fishery resources in both river drainages.

The Ahtna demonstration project would allow the tribes in the region to manage wildlife on Ahtna and other Native-owned lands, and create a Federal/State/tribal co-management structure. Michelle Anderson, accompanied by Roy Ewan, Eleanor Dementi, and Nick Jackson shared further details.

The demonstration projects were highlighted in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Hearing in DC, and legislative language has been sent to the Alaska congressional delegation and to the State of Alaska.

The full text of Dr. Worl's comments is included here in PDF format.

**Stay tuned for a special Subsistence Report in December with litigation details and strategies for you to support the Subsistence Defense Fund!**



# Monthly President's Report



## Thank You 2013 Convention Sponsors!

### **DENALI**

ExxonMobil  
GCI

### **KATMAI**

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute  
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
NANA Regional Corporation  
Red Dog Mine-Teck Alaska  
Shell Exploration & Production  
Company  
Tanana Chiefs Conference  
Wells Fargo

### **SUSITNA**

Alaska Airlines  
Alaska Energy Authority  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Anglo American US (Pebble)  
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation  
AT&T  
Bristol Bay Native Corporation  
BP  
ConocoPhillips  
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.  
Donlin Gold  
Flint Hills Resources  
KeyBank Foundation  
Mission 100  
Office of Indian Energy  
Pebble Ltd. Partnership  
Statoil  
Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation  
Sam's Club®

### **TAKU**

Allen Marine, Inc.  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Bristol Bay Native Association  
Bering Straits Native Corporation  
Chenega Corporation  
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce  
Wallace Insurance/Premera

### **KOBUK**

Afognak Native Corporation  
Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian  
Tribes of Alaska  
Kenai Peninsula College  
KPMG  
Lynden  
BDO, USA LLP  
Southwest Alaska Vocational & Educational  
Center  
The Eyak Corporation  
The Tatitlek Corporation  
Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital/Denali Center  
MAC Federal Credit Union  
Seekins Ford Lincoln  
TDL Staffing

### **FRIENDS OF AFN**

Construction Machinery Industrial, LLC  
Linc Energy  
Nabors Drilling USA, LP  
Northrim Bank  
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 375  
The Aleut Corporation  
Teamsters Local 959  
Donny Robinette, M.D.  
Grace Berg Schaible

# Monthly President's Report



## Advocating for Our People

### ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Just prior to Convention, Senator Murkowski introduced S.1574, the **Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2013**. The purpose of the bill is to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training and related services they provide from diverse federal sources in order to improve the effectiveness of those services; reduce joblessness in Indian communities; serve tribally determined goals consistent with the policy of self-determination; and eliminate duplicative regulations. It was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and AFN, along with our allies in the lower 48, will be providing comment.

A PDF of the full bill accompanies this report.

### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FIX

On October 17th, Senator Begich, along with Senators Max Baucus (D-MT), Tom Udall (D-NM), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Al Franken (D-MN), co-sponsored legislation to correct an inconsistency in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which without a permanent fix could prevent health care benefits for thousands of Alaska Natives and American Indians.

The current version of the health care law includes important provisions for Native Americans including permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. However, the health care law contains several different definitions of "Indian" which led to conflicting interpretations of eligibility for benefits and requirements for coverage.

The Senators' proposed legislation adds new and comprehensive definitions that are outlined in the related documents included with this report.



# Monthly President's Report



## Updates and Opportunities

### NEW LEADERSHIP AT NCAI

In mid-October, the National Congress of American Indians elected a new Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is charged with advancing the mission of NCAI to protect and advance tribal sovereignty by representing the issues and priorities of tribal nations throughout the country. NCAI's new executive committee includes:

President: Brian Cladoosby, Chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

First Vice President: Michael Finley, Chairman, Colville Tribes

Recording Secretary: Robert Shepard, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

Treasurer: Dennis Welsh, Jr., Tribal Council Member, Colorado River Indian Tribes



As with AFN, NCAI's Executive Committee is elected by the organization's membership. Each of these officers is a member of the NCAI board and serves a two-year term beginning October 2013.

With this election, NCAI bids farewell to President Jefferson Keel. We had the pleasure of working with President Keel and thank him for his leadership and many years of service. We are confident that he will remain a leader in the Native community and we look forward to working with him in new capacities moving forward.



# Monthly President's Report



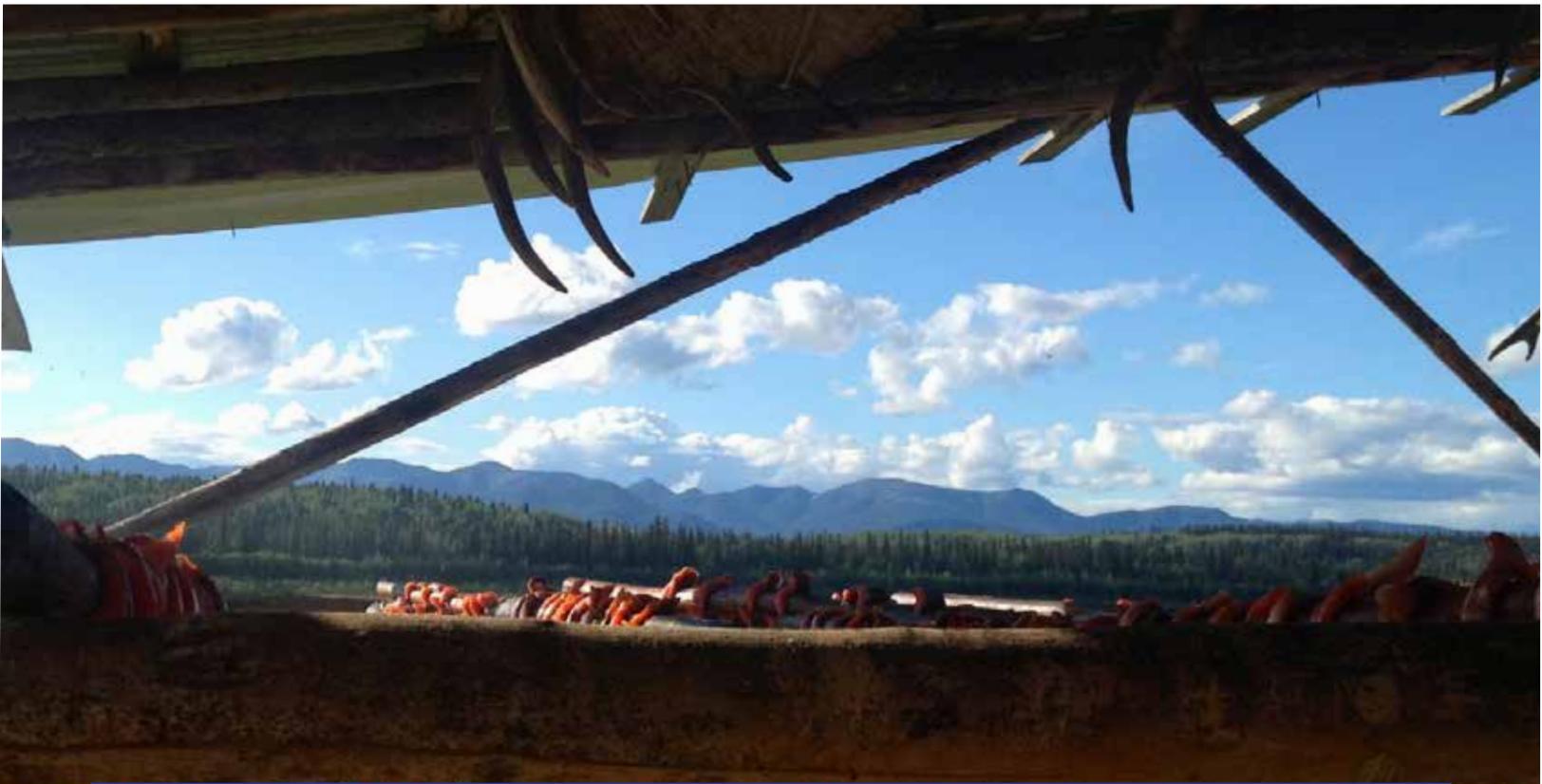
## Thank You

This year's annual Convention was one of the most exciting and dynamic Conventions I can remember. Thank you all for making time in your lives to help support our people and pave the way to a brighter future.

We have much work ahead of us, most especially with regard to defending our subsistence rights. With our membership fully engaged, I look forward to the battles and to the progress I am confident we will achieve.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka



Alaska Federation of Natives

1577 C Street, Suite 300 | Anchorage, Alaska | 99501 | 907.274.3611 | [afninfo@nativefederation.org](mailto:afninfo@nativefederation.org)



# **AFN Press Briefing – State of Alaska v. Sally Jewell**

## **November 5, 2013**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Tara Sweeney, AFN Co-Chair**

Good afternoon.

We are here today to share AFN's response to the recent action taken by Governor Sean Parnell and his Administration. Yesterday, the State of Alaska filed a Cert Petition to the US Supreme Court in the legal case *State of Alaska v Sally Jewell, Secretary of the United States Department of Interior et al*, widely known as the Katie John Case. AFN is an Intervening Party in this case in defense of our peoples' subsistence rights, and has been for over 18 years.

Subsistence is not only a way of life. It defines us as a people and is our spiritual connection to the land and sea. It is essential to our survival as a people, and no one has the right to ever take it away from us.

This latest action by the State of Alaska is an assault upon the people of Alaska who depend upon hunting, fishing and gathering to feed their families. AFN is extremely disappointed in the State of Alaska, who continues unravel any protections for subsistence in any way they can.

The legal proceedings associated with this case are very complex and have spanned many years. AFN is grateful for the full support of the US Department of Justice, representing the federal government, who is also a party to this case. This persistent State vs. Federal conflict puts the Native Community in the middle and is absolutely unnecessary. It moves our beautiful state in the wrong direction. It is unacceptable and we are determined to do all we can to put a stop to it.

## **HISTORY**

### **Julie Kitka, AFN President**

In 1980, Congress enacted Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Act. Title VIII of ANILCA established a priority for customary and traditional uses of fish and wildlife on public lands in Alaska for rural residents. Congress allowed the State to implement the rural priority through a state law of general application that complied with Title VIII's priority. The State of Alaska came into compliance with Title VIII of ANILCA in 1981 and thus obtained authority to manage subsistence uses on federal public lands in Alaska. In 1989 Supreme Court set aside the State's ability to provide a rural subsistence preference when it declared that the rural priority violated the Alaska Constitution. Consequently, the State lost regulatory authority over subsistence uses on federal lands. Since then, much time and expense has been spent in litigation over the scope and mechanics of the federal management regime on federal public lands.

The state program, on the other hand, has lost meaningful protection for subsistence by rural Alaska Natives. Aside from the fact that the state "priority" is available to all Alaskans, state regulatory boards have exercised their authority to declare large areas of the state as "non-subsistence use areas" to preclude application of even the state's watered-down subsistence preference.

AFN initially attempted to fix the problem, by working with the Alaska Congressional delegation and supportive State legislators to obtain a Constitutional Amendment that would allow the State to regain management authority. The State legislature repeatedly rejected efforts supported by the Native community to amend the State constitution to allow a rural preference.

The Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture took over management of subsistence on federal public lands in 1990, but the regulations applied only to hunting on land and excluded navigable waters from the scope of ANILCA -- leaving fishing, which constitutes roughly 60% of the rural subsistence diet, without federal protection. The Secretary's determination -- that navigable waters were not within the definition of public lands -- generated a number of lawsuits, including the original federal lawsuit filed by Katie John.

The federal courts eventually held that ANILCA's definition of public lands includes waters subject to the federal reserved water rights doctrine. Implementation of the Katie John decision was blocked for years in an attempt to give the state the opportunity to regain management authority over subsistence on federal public lands. Senator Stevens even put the federal regulations extending jurisdiction to navigable waters on hold through a series of appropriation riders, and made provisional amendments to ANILCA that the State wanted, but the State legislature still refused to pass legislation that would have put a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot.

## **SUBSISTENCE DEFENCE**

**Julie Kitka, AFN President**

Since then, AFN has followed a three-pronged strategy to protect the subsistence rights of our people.

First, we have tried to work with the various Administrations over the years to improve the federal subsistence management system. The erosion of federal protections after more than twenty years of dual management and widespread dissatisfaction among subsistence users led AFN to call for a comprehensive review of the Federal Management Program. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar initiated such a review in 2009. The review was completed in late 2010, and AFN continues to call for the elimination of red tape and unnecessary regulations, replacement of the current federal subsistence board with one composed of subsistence users, and a host of other administrative changes that could be implemented without legislation and without significant impacts on the federal budget.

Second, AFN is involved in developing a proposal for Congress for legislation that would restore and protect Native hunting and fishing rights in Alaska, and provide a co-equal role for Alaska Natives in the management of fish and wildlife. We will be holding Native-to-Native hearings around the State to develop the proposal with the goal of having a legislative package ready to introduce in Congress by January 2015.

Finally, AFN has continued to defend subsistence in the courts. We thought the first Katie John case against the United States filed in 1991 over the scope of federal jurisdiction resolved the issue. Unfortunately, the State has continued to fight implementation of that decision. In 1999, the federal agencies identified federal reserved waters where the federal rural priority would apply. To our surprise, the State of Alaska filed the current lawsuit in 2005 challenging those regulations. AFN intervened in support of the federal government's position. The district court upheld those regulations and the Ninth Circuit affirmed. The State has now petitioned the US Supreme Court to overturn the federal rules that define Title VIII's public lands definition to include waters subject to the federal reserved rights doctrine. The state argues that the agencies followed the wrong procedure in identifying reserved waters and that it incorrectly extended their authority to navigable waters.

AFN has been involved in the current Katie John case for 18 years. We have assembled our legal team and will join with the Secretary in vigorously defending the decision of the lower courts that extend ANILCA's jurisdiction to federally reserved waters in Alaska, while we concurrently peruse a congressional fix. AFN has established a Legal Defense Fund and will call on our members and others to help us in this fight.

Regardless of the outcome of our ongoing efforts with the Administration, the Congress and in the Courts, our people will continue to hunt, fish and feed their families as they have done for generations.

## **BOTTOM LINE**

**Ana Hoffman, AFN Co-Chair**

The current situation is as follows:

1. Alaska Native and rural residents will continue to hunt, fish and gather to feed their families. This will continue every day, in every region of the state.
2. AFN will protect the legal rights of Alaska Natives to food security and full implementation of federal laws intended to protect the subsistence way of life.
3. AFN will raise even more funds for our Subsistence Defense Fund to build a war-chest to protect our food security in every way possible, against the State of Alaska or anyone else who threatens our people's rights.
4. The federal priority (Title VIII) will continue to apply on all federally-owned uplands. It also applies to all non-navigable waters within such federally-owned lands.
5. The federal priority will continue to apply to navigable waters that are located above submerged lands that were retained by the United States at Statehood in 1959 (most submerged lands passed automatically to the State of Alaska at the moment of statehood).
6. The federal priority will continue to apply to navigable waters that are covered by the federal reserved rights doctrine. This includes all waters within and adjacent to federal conservation system units, such as National Forests, Parks, Preserves, Monuments, Recreation Areas, and so on. This point is contested in the State's petition for certiorari.
7. All other non-federal lands (including Alaska Native corporation lands and tribally-owned lands) are subject only to the state's subsistence law. Most of the areas around Anchorage (including the Kenai Peninsula and Mat-Su Valley), Fairbanks, and Juneau have been designated non-subsistence areas by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game. In addition, areas around Ketchikan and Valdez have been designated as non-subsistence areas.

## **CLOSE**

### **Dr. Rosita Worl, AFN Subsistence Committee Chair**

We want to be very clear about three things:

1. We will vigorously defend the subsistence rights of our people by intervening in this case and any others that compromise our basic rights.
2. For nearly two decades we have made attempts to resolve this issue at the State, Congressional and Administrative levels; and, the State has refused to participate in a responsible solution for Alaskans. This is not acceptable and must be stopped.
3. The State of Alaska's attempted overreach is a reckless attempt to unravel the precedent set by the lower courts and through administrative procedures. This should enrage not only the Native community, but all Alaskans. Too much time, energy and precious funding has been wasted in the State's ongoing attacks on subsistence. Enough is enough.

AFN shares the State's stated goal for its action, which is to protect the resources for the future generation. The availability of resources and protections to ensure our access to subsistence resources is necessary for the cultural survival of Alaska Natives and food security for rural Alaska. The State has the ability to manage state resources if it comes into compliance with ANILCA. After so many years of costly litigation, the State of Alaska should use its resources to solve the subsistence issue and remove this contentious issue that divides Alaskans. It is time we move forward.

We thank you all for taking the time to be here and call-in.

We will leave the legal details to our legal team, but we are happy to answer questions related to these statements and subsistence, and we will be happy to keep you informed as new developments arise.

Nelson N. Angapak, Sr.  
2013 AFN Convention Key Note Address  
October 24, 2013  
Traditional Native Family Values

First of all, I want to thank God, my grandparents, my parents, my wife Natalie Angapak and my family for the support that I've received from them in my endeavors in life. I thank Calista Corporation and the Alaska Federation of Natives for the employment opportunities they provided for me during the 40 years of my professional life as an advocate for Alaska Natives. And I thank the Alaska Native Community, including those who've told us that they are praying for us, for the support that you've demonstrated and extended toward AFN and also me when I traveled to and fro in Alaska. Thank you all.

Never in my wildest dreams have I ever pictured myself being a keynote speaker for any AFN Conventions. I thank the AFN Board of Directors, President Julie Kitka; and the staff of AFN for giving me the honor and privilege of being your keynote speaker this morning. I will cherish this moment for the rest of my life. This is very humbling for me and my family.

Ceumek kankernaurtua umyuangcautekillruaka Yugturlainaq kalariskuma canritnayukluku; taugam yulgutekngamteke makut elaput mane wetalret, kencikluke, takaqlukillu, alungutkun tamaklamta tarengitukimtegun pecequa. Illmekutunarqelleneuq whaten pelliq. Quyanaqfa tarenglua!

I just held a brief executive session with the Yupik speaking delegates at this 2013 AFN Convention. Yupik, perhaps, is one of the easiest languages to learn—some of us went to school to learn to speak English.

## INTRODUCTION

Like many youth, young men and women of my generation, I spent some time at government boarding schools. When I was 14 years old in 1958, I was sent to Wrangell Institute; and at that time, I hardly knew English. There is one incident, had it not been for the wisdom of my grandfather, that I was going to use as excuse for quitting school when I was 16 years old associated with Wrangell Institute. I have a scar on my right hand that I received for speaking Yupik in class, which was prohibited; and this angered our teacher. He made me stand in front of class, had me hold out my right hand, then he struck my hand with the brass edge of a 12 inch and pierced my skin. The cut healed; however, the emotional scar remained with me for a while, 46 years to be exact. My emotional healing began in 2004 at

a Togiak, Alaska Conference on healing; I attempted to share this story there; however, I was unable to talk about it then as I became angry, emotional, and even wept publically. I thank God and the people who sponsored that conference when they did.

Sometime after we returned home from Wrangell Institute, I remember telling my grandfather emphatically that I would quit school when I was 16 as I thought that this was the easiest way, though perhaps not the best way, to handle this event. He was silent for a moment, which meant that he was thinking. He finally responded by saying: “My dear grandson, Tutgararluma, I was hoping that you were going to learn enough of this tongue so that someday you can tell these people, the white eyes, that we are people, people just like them with feelings.” If he had answered in any other way, I would not be standing before you today addressing you with this keynote.

This moment is one of the key turning points of my life. His answer demonstrated the wisdom of our Alaska Native Elders; wisdom that has existed among our people from the beginning of time and wisdom that still remains with us today. From time to time, to this day, when I think of my grandfather’s response, I marvel at his wisdom. Sitting among us are our Elders from across the state of Alaska, their wisdom, in part, is the reason we are here today. More than ever, we need to find ways and means of incorporating the wisdom of our Elders as we move forward in addressing the issues that impact our ways of life; among them but not limited to; subsistence, and in continuing cultural revitalization within the Alaska Native Community. Let’s give our Elders the strongest gratitude that we can extend to them.

While some of us experienced similar types of undue treatment such as mine, let us remember that our positive experiences at boarding schools overshadow these; and to this day, I am thankful for them—among them: we were educated by them, lifelong friendship created among those of us who attended the boarding schools together at the same time; friendship that bonded us and created camaraderie for us as Alaska Native peoples; and the boarding schools also educated some of our Alaska Native leaders who led our people to where we are today among other things.

## ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH

I now turn to our youth, young men and women attending this convention. There is a silver lining associated with this scar; it taught me to understand that by listening to my grandfather and grandmother, I learned to listen to the wisdom of our Elders. The very thing that I was going to use as an excuse for quitting school became a

source of my motivation to remain in school, so that someday I could tell these people that we are people just like them with feelings; and intelligent enough to go as far as I could go in school. In other words, please learn to use your difficult experiences and the responses of our Elders to motivate yourself to succeed in life.

Our Elders told us that one of the keys of succeeding in the future was education; and based on our experiences, we have found that to be so very true. When many of us from my generation earned a high school diploma; that opened doors of greater opportunities and meaningful jobs for us than those who did not graduate from high school. Today, I would say earning a bachelor's degree from a four year college or graduating from technical training will be one of the keys to opening many more doors for good jobs and job opportunities for you.

Regardless of what choices you make in life, strive to do the best that you can be. If you choose to remain in the village after high school, strive to become the best at providing for and taking care of your families; and if you decide to go to school beyond high school, strive to finish what you started; whether it is college or technical school. When you look back, eventually, you will realize that it took only 4 years of your life to graduate from college.

For our part, I hope those of us who are no longer at the prime of our youth—a fancy way of saying we are getting old—will support our youth, young women and men, by doing all we can to give them the resources, the opportunities and the tools they need to succeed. Let us share the lessons we have learned and our hopes for their futures. Let us fight, together, to connect our villages and cities, and to give our youth access to the technologies that will allow them to keep our villages alive while learning and connecting virtually with the rest of the world.

## ANCSA

When I came back to Alaska, June of 1972, after I was honorably discharged from active duty in the U. S. Army, one of the things I found out was that the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971 had been enacted into law.

ANCSA is, by far, one of the most, if not the most complex, Indian legislation that was ever passed by Congress. Some of the complexities of ANCSA included formation of ANCSA corporations, and some of us did not know what a corporation was. Other issues we were faced with included enrollment of Alaska Natives born on or before December 18, 1971 as our shareholders—and by the way, we asked “what is a shareholder?” land selection deadlines, etc. For all

practical purposes, we had no existing models we could emulate. We were walking on a new trial without realizing it. We worked together across regional boundaries as united people in order for us to successfully implement ANCSA in a manner that we felt was in the best interests of our people. In the end, we innovated, assisted one another where we could, and we prevailed and succeeded; and I think we did pretty good!

Our village and regional corporations have gone a long ways since those early days of ANCSA. Today, the ANCSA corporations play a major role in the economy of Alaska; they collectively provide employment opportunities for both Alaska Natives and non-Natives. To the people who were involved with the early days of ANCSA's implementation, including people like Willie Hensley, thank you for paving the road for the present corps of Alaska Native leaders.

Today, we live in one of the most challenging times in the history of our nation. Earlier this month, the federal government of our nation shut down its operations for the second time in the last seventeen years. Although the government is now back to running, the impacts of the shut down on Alaska Natives through the programs operated by our health care facilities, our non-profit organizations as well as some of our ANCSA corporations will linger on. These organizations are facing federal funding reductions as a result of sequestration and those reductions are causing real pain for our people.

Sequestration is a process that automatically cuts the federal budget across most departments and agencies. Congress included the threat of sequestration in the Budget Control Act of 2011, ironically, as a way to encourage compromise on deficit reduction efforts.<sup>1</sup> As a result of sequestration, Alaska Native leadership has found themselves addressing the budgetary impacts of this on programs that impact the Alaska Natives—from headstart to healthcare.

Some of the most difficult and painful decisions our organizations make from time to time is the reduction of or even elimination of programs that benefit Alaska Natives due to financial difficulties. These decisions may include reductions of personnel as a last resort. I am confident that our Alaska Native leaders involved with these matters will decide in a manner that is in the best interests of our people as well as their organizations. If there is ever a time to stand united behind our leadership, now is the time; and if there is ever a time to speak with a united voice

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://blog.usa.gov/post/44071444149/what-is-sequestration>

to share our stories and our needs, to make sure that our representatives in DC and Juneau understand the real human impact of these cuts, now is the time.

To guard against the devastating impacts of future sequestration cuts, AFN and the Alaska Native Community should work now with our allies at the National Congress of American Indians and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, to ask Alaska's Congressional Delegation, their congressional delegations and our Congressional allies to protect our peoples with legislation that would exempt the Alaska Native/American Indian and Native Hawaiian programs from sequestration. Such legislative fix would be entirely consistent with the federal government's trust responsibility to our Alaska Native peoples.

## SUBSISTENCE

- Subsistence has the potential of being understood differently by Yup'ik and non-Yup'ik speaking people. There is no Yup'ik word for subsistence; the closest word we have for subsistence in Yup'ik is *yungnaqsaraq*; literally, "striving or trying to live." The words hunting and fishing also complicate the subject in the Yupik Society; our general term for fish is *nega* literally, food. To fish is to *neqsuk*—literally "seeking food." *Neqsurtuq* literally means he/she is seeking food. I cannot speak for other cultural groups however I suspect that they may not have a word for subsistence as well.

We have lawyers and legal experts who have been working with AFN and the Alaska Native Community regarding subsistence hunting and fishing; we've won some legal battles in the courts of law over the years; we'll leave that battle in their hands.

I think we ought to look at subsistence from our Alaska Native eyes; subsistence hunting and fishing is what keeps our people alive physically, mentally, and spiritually; in other words, subsistence hunting and fishing is life itself. To this end, let us remember the late Katie John who "walked up before lawyers, and judges and TV cameras and people" and according to Yvonne Echohawk, a pastor and an adopted daughter of Katie John, she stated that Katie John said: 'give me my land, give me my water, give me my fish, I want justice for my people.' And she didn't rest until she had it. (She was) a woman of God, called of God, knew what she had to do and did it. She knew she had a destiny. She knew she had a purpose. And she did it and she did it well."<sup>2</sup> Katie John summarized one of the ways that Alaska Natives view subsistence very eloquently.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.alaskapublic.org/2013/06/05/alaskans-mourn-katie-john/>

Recently, on September 19, 2013, Dr. Rosita Worl, Chair, AFN Subsistence Committee testified before the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, she stated, in part, that:

“We are here to ask Congress to fulfill the Federal Government’s trust responsibility to protect the Alaska Native subsistence culture and economy. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources should work with the Alaska Native community to design federal legislation that will protect Alaska Native subsistence rights. By embracing co-management with Alaska Natives, the Federal Government could administer a much more responsive and cost-efficient management program. It would reduce the litigation that has plagued the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA since its passage more than 30 years ago”.<sup>3</sup>

This was the first oversight hearing on subsistence in the United States Congress since the passage of ANILCA. Let us all, with a united voice, thank the AFN Team who testified in front of Congress regarding the protection of our subsistence way of life.

There have been some major assaults on our subsistence ways of life over the years; however, it seems that the last two years in particular, the crackdowns on the Alaska Natives and non-Natives living along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers have increased more than any other years. The men and women who were fishing for Chinook salmon for food in these rivers were criminalized for pursuing them to feed their families. The people living along the Kuskokwim River were the most visible for their efforts of catching enough kings to feed their families during the upcoming winter months. Their nets, in some instances, the only net these people had, were taken from them. When is it wrong to fish and feed our families; or, to put this in another way, is it wrong to fish to feed our families? We say, NO, it is not. Let us say no with a united voice, the only way our people are truly heard.

## FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES IN ALASKA

The Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives, in accordance to AFN Convention Resolution 09-05, officially approved inclusion of the 231 federally recognized tribes as an integral part of AFN as an organization earlier this year. In my mind, and in my heart, AFN has always recognized the federally recognized tribes in Alaska. We are peoples united.

---

<sup>3</sup> Excerpt from Dr. Rosita Worl’s Testimony

As we all know, the Alaska Native Community, AFN, the federally recognized tribes as well as their allies, have been looking for ways and means of protecting our subsistence ways of life since the passage of ANCSA. While we talk about approaching this issue with a united front, have we really done that? If not, it is time that the Alaska Native Community—including ANCSA Corporations, AFN and the federally recognized tribes—build on each other’s strengths on subsistence. These strengths include; but are not limited to:

1. The ANCSA corporations; and in particular, the regional corporations have developed expertise in lobbying Congress on issues of their concern during their more than 40 years of existence;
2. AFN is recognized nationally as an advocate for the rights and the well-being of the Alaska Natives; and finally,
3. The federally recognized tribes have the government-to-government relationship with the federal government.

We’ve independently asked the federal government and Congress to protect our subsistence hunting and fishing rights and our requests have been well received. Perhaps, it is time that we merge the expertise and knowledge and the strengths we have, and truly present a united front in reality, in truth and in spirit, to lobby Congress for the protection of our subsistence hunting and fishing rights.

Finally, there is one statement that I’ve always wanted to make on Title VIII of ANILCA. I want our delegates, guests and other people that based on our lobbying of Congress from mid 1970s to December 1980; there was never a compromise on our part regarding subsistence; we lobbied for Alaska Native preference on what are now federal conservation systems in Alaska. (Repeat)

## UNITY

- Unity is a word for togetherness or oneness of mind. When a group of people act as one and are on the same page, they display unity. For example, the Holy Bible tells us in Psalms 133:1: *“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity”*.

We all know that during the 2010 Republican primary, Senator Lisa Murkowski lost her party’s nomination for U.S. Senate. This created a dilemma within the Alaska Native Community. We were concerned about the possibility of losing support in Congress on issues that impact our people. We concluded that supporting Senator Lisa Murkowski as a write-in candidate for the U.S. Senate was our best option. The Alaska Native Community and her supporters convinced Lisa

to run as a write-in candidate to retain her seat in the U.S. Senate. Therefore, in the 2010 general election, a "super PAC" called Alaskans Standing Together was created, managed, and supported by Alaska's regional Native corporations<sup>4</sup>, village corporations, and some major Alaska businesses with the sole purpose of supporting the write-in candidacy of Lisa Murkowski. The power of Alaskans Standing Together became clear after the write-in votes were tallied, resulting in the reelection of Senator Lisa Murkowski to the United States Senate as a write-in candidate; the first time that this has ever happened in the history of the State of Alaska and only the third person ever to win a United States Senate election through write in vote process.<sup>5</sup> Most importantly, what we accomplished with Alaskans Standing Together demonstrated that when the Alaska Natives, the ANCSA Corporations, and our supporters are united behind an issue, we have a greater chance of achieving our goals. This is the kind of unity with which Alaska Natives must approach the major issues of our era.

## CULTURAL REVITALIZATION

Although there has been litigation on the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA since its passage about 30 years ago, an unexpected benefit came out of this act through the 'customary and traditional uses;' and that is the revitalization of our Alaska Native dances, languages, and cultural and spiritual traditions.

- Dr. Paul John, the Traditional Chief of the Association Village Council Presidents, (April 1997:52) described how dancing returned to Nelson Island: 'In our village, dancing had stopped. One time Tununak invited Nightmute, and I went along. At that time they no longer danced but gave gifts to their guests. After the people of Tununak had fed their guests, they brought in goods and distributed them. Then they invited their guests to their school. When we came in, because their school had a movie projector, they showed us a movie, and that was the first time that I ever saw a movie. When we arrived home, our leaders met and they were very dejected because they could not repay the fact that they had been shown a movie. Though they wanted to repay them, they could see no way to do so. Then their leader said, "Let us resort to our own Yup'ik way and invite them in turn, even though we may have only one song to repay them for their movie. His fellow residents immediately agreed. So the Tununak people were

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.adn.com/2010/11/20/1565075/natives-super-pac-meant-new-boost.html>

<sup>5</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisa\\_Murkowski](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisa_Murkowski)

invited and when they arrived, those who participated in previous dances danced for them.”<sup>6</sup>

To thank the people of the Municipality of Anchorage and the Railbelt for their overwhelmingly support of amending the Alaska State Constitution for rural preference for subsistence hunting and fishing, AFN decided to hold a Qujana night, sometime in early 1980s, similar to the exchange of dancing shown between Tununak and Nightmute. We asked Alaska Native communities in our state for dance groups who could perform at this event. The number of dance groups who responded to perform at this event was less than what we needed for a two hour spot so we asked some of the groups to perform more than once, if possible.

Following the first night there were some major requests by the people of Anchorage and the State of Alaska that we must have an encore performance next year, and we did. The number of dance groups who responded to perform for the second Qujana Night was enough and sufficient to fill a two hour session.

Fast forward to 2013: Today AFN has the luxury of selecting dance groups who might perform at the Qujana Nights as well as during the AFN convention. Many of these dance groups have credited Qujana Nights as one of the primary reasons for their dancing again publicly. I am sharing this story to let you know that during my short lifetime, I have seen the revitalization of one of the most important aspects of our cultures; the revitalization of Alaska Native dances and we have seen how that revitalization has impacted our lives physically, emotionally and spiritually.

In closing, let us remember one moment in the life of the late Jonathan Solomon. In 1994, a resolution supporting exploration of ANWR was introduced on the floor of the convention. After a major debate on the floor, the resolution barely passed on a roll call vote. Right after the consideration of that resolution, the Chairman allowed the delegates to state their final remarks on the floor regarding this issue. Finally, the Honorable Jonathan Solomon stood up and asked to be recognized. Chief Solomon stated something to this effect, very softly, but very strongly:

“I stand before you humbly to thank the delegates of the 1994 convention for giving us an opportunity to address an issue that will have a major impact upon our lives regardless of where we stand on this issue at this

---

<sup>6</sup> Fienup-Riordan, A., (2007). *Yuungnaqpiallerput: The Way We Genuinely Live*. Anchorage, AK: Anchorage Museum Association)

time. Regardless of what happened on the floor of the convention on this issue today; I am asking the delegates of this convention, in humbleness and in meekness, that when we walk out of this building, we may walk out bruised, black-eyed and beat-up; I am asking and urging you from the bottom of my heart, that we must walk out as one united Alaska Native Community.”

May the 2013 AFN Convention be the best ever of the AFN Conventions. Let us leave this Convention as one united Alaska Native Community.

Thank you.



## 2013 AFN Convention Resolutions

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>		
<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>CONVENTION ACTION</b>
<b>SPECIAL RECOGNITION</b>		
13-1	HONORING KATIE JOHN & NAMING MAY 31 AS "KATIE JOHN DAY"	PASSED
13-2	IN HONOR OF RAY MALA AND OTHER ALASKA NATIVES IN THE PERFORMING ARTS	PASSED
<b>SUBSISTENCE</b>		
13-3	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO REDUCE THE CHINOOK BY-CATCH TO NO MORE THAN 20,000, SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AND PRIORITIZING ACCESS FOR SPECIFIED SUBSISTENCE USERS TO ENHANCE ESCAPEMENT	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-4	PROTECTION OF ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY IN FEDERAL REVIEW OF RURAL QUALIFICATION CRITERIA AND CURRENT FAILURE OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL INTENT FOR TITLE VIII OF ANILCA	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-5	REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL	PASSED
13-6	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT	PASSED
13-7	FEDERAL PRIORITY OF INDIGENOUS HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING AND GATHERING	PASSED

	<b>HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE</b>	
13-8	ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT OF 2013 AND REPEAL OF SECTION 910 OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT	PASSED
13-9	IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA) 2013 & 2014 FISCAL YEAR FUNDING	PASSED
13-10	IN SUPPORT OF S. 1575, A BILL TO CORRECT THE INCONSISTENCIES IN THE DEFINITIONS OF "INDIAN" FOR HEALTH CARE PURPOSES	PASSED
13-11	TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION EQUITY ACT AND UTILIZE ALL LEGISLATIVE TOOLS TO ENSURE THAT FUNDING IS ADMINISTERED BY ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS	PASSED
13-12	SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC LAW 102-477 PROGRAMMING BY UPHOLDING TRIBAL MANAGEMENT OVER FEDERAL AGENCY FUNDS IN AN INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM	PASSED
13-13	RESTORING NATIVE AMERICAN INDIGENOUS RIGHTS TO ADDRESS THE CRISIS OF SUICIDE AND OTHER SOCIAL CHALLENGES FACING OUR COMMUNITIES	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-14	PROTECT ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-15	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION'S NUKA SYSTEM OF CARE	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-16	SUPPORT FOR DR. WILLIAM DEMMERT PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE INDIAN EDUCATION ACT TITLE VII ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT	PASSED
13-17	RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF THE RURAL ALASKA VILLAGE GRANT SANITATION FACILITIES PROGRAM	PASSED

13-18	A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE FULL IMPACT OF POTENTIAL MEDICAID EXPANSION IS CONSIDERED AND TO TAKE COMPLETE ADVANTAGE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES TO EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY	PASSED
13-19	URGING PRESIDENT OBAMA AND CONGRESS TO PROTECT SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING	PASSED
13-20	SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS IN REGIONAL HUBS	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-21	SUPPORTING PLACEMENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOMES IN THE REGIONAL HUB COMMUNITIES	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-22	SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOMELESS SHELTERS IN THE REGIONAL HUB COMMUNITIES	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-23	ACTION SUPPORTING MEANINGFUL CHEMICALS POLICY REFORM AND NOT SUPPORTING THE CHEMICAL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT (S.1009) AS CURRENTLY DRAFTED	PASSED
13-24	A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ENHANCE ITS PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AGAINST DANGEROUS DRUGS IN RURAL ALASKA	AMENDED AND PASSED
	<b>LAND &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	
13-25	SUPPORT THE CONTINUING WORK OF THE STATE OF ALASKA SUB-CABINET ON CLIMATE CHANGE	PASSED
13-26	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO CHANGE STATE LAW REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO RECONVEY LAND FOR VALID PENDING NATIVE ALLOTMENTS	PASSED
	<b>ECONOMIC</b>	
13-28	FULL FUNDING OF INDIRECT COSTS (CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS)	PASSED
13-29	PROTECT TRIBAL PROGRAMS FROM IMPACTS OF SEQUESTRATION	PASSED
13-30	ENERGY AFFORDABILITY THROUGH WEATHERIZATION AND RENEWABLE SYSTEMS	PASSED

13-31	ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FIXED AND MOBILE BROADBAND	PASSED
	<b>OTHER</b>	
13-32	RECOGNITION OF THE ONE FOOT HIGH KICK INTO THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES	PASSED
13-33	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF SLED DOG MUSHING IN ALASKA AND TO AFFIRM ALASKA AS A "RIGHT TO MUSH" STATE AND TO PROTECT THE CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL ACTIVITY OF SLED DOG MUSHING FOR THE SPIRITUAL, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF ALASKANS	PASSED
13-34	REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL RESIDENTS TO OBTAIN AN INITIAL STATE OF ALASKA IDENTIFICATION CARD	PASSED
13-35	SUPPORTING THE FAIRBANKS FOUR	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-36	INCREASE ALASKA NATIVE VOTER TURN OUT	PASSED
13-37	A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION	PASSED
13-38	AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL INITIATIVE	AMENDED AND PASSED
	<b>ANSCA/TRIBAL</b>	
13-39	AUTHORIZING STATEWIDE HEARINGS ON SUBSISTENCE	PASSED
13-40	PROMOTING TRIBALLY-OPERATED SCHOOLS AND CULTURALLY-APPROPRIATE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH BY RE-ESTABLISHING BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE) FUNDING IN ALASKA	AMENDED AND PASSED
13-41	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND/OR ENHANCEMENT OF FULLY-FUNCTIONING TRIBAL COURTS	AMENDED AND PASSED



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2013 Annual Convention  
Resolution 13-1

- TITLE:** HONORING KATIE JOHN & NAMING MAY 31 AS “KATIE JOHN DAY”
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** Katie John, a respected and cherished Ahtna Elder, passed away on Friday, May 31, 2013; and
- WHEREAS:** Katie John was the champion, the leader, and the lead plaintiff in a long and tenuous legal battle addressing Native subsistence fishing rights; and
- WHEREAS:** the lawsuit endured by Katie John was filed after the State of Alaska refused her and Doris Charles, access to a long-abandoned fish camp in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve; and
- WHEREAS:** Katie John fought not only to maintain her family’s fish camp, but to pass her traditional way of life and practices to her children and grandchildren; and
- WHEREAS:** Katie John endured a decade long battle through the state and federal court systems, fighting for the subsistence hunting and fishing rights of all Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** her fight culminated in a 2001 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling stating that the subsistence fisheries protections provided under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) did in fact extend to all navigable waters in which the federal government owned reserved water rights, effectively allowing subsistence fishing to continue unrestricted in those areas; and
- WHEREAS:** without her persistence and unwillingness to concede, Alaska Natives as a whole would not be able to practice and enjoy traditional lifestyles, passing the ways of Native people on to the next generations, and ensuring traditional culture and heritage practices are never forgotten; and

WHEREAS: in recognition of her fighter spirit and courageous battle, the University of Alaska Fairbanks decreed Katie John with an honorary doctorate of law degree during the 2011 spring commencement ceremony, to be forever revered as Dr. Katie John.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. honors Katie John for her lifetime of accomplishments and her contributions to Alaska Native peoples

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests the State of Alaska to declare May 31 Katie John Day as this is the day the State of Alaska allows Alaska Native people to put their fishwheels in the water.

SUBMITTED BY:	ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2013 Annual Convention  
Resolution 13-2

- TITLE:** IN HONOR OF RAY MALA AND OTHER ALASKA NATIVES IN THE PERFORMING ARTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** Ray Mala was born above the Arctic Circle in a small rural mining town called Candle, Alaska on December 27, 1906 to his Iñupiaq mother and Russian Jewish father; and
- WHEREAS:** Mala was fluent in both English and Iñupiaq, and was a skilled hunter who learned the Iñupiaq values and way of life from his maternal grandmother Nancy Armstrong; and
- WHEREAS:** Mala persevered in his personal and professional life, though he lost his family in 1920 to the flu epidemic and experienced the adversity of racism throughout his lifetime; and
- WHEREAS:** Mala starred in his first film at the age of 16, and in a career spanning three decades Mala appeared in 25 films and is recognized as the first major Native American movie star; and
- WHEREAS:** In the early 1920s, Mala accompanied Knud Rasmussen on The Great Sled Journey, filming and documenting Inuit songs and legends, contributing to the knowledge and preservation of Inuit culture; and
- WHEREAS:** Mala recognized the excitement and interest of the world in the great serum run to Nome in 1925 and worked as a cameraman with musher Gunnar Kaasen to re-enact the delivery of the serum in daylight used in newsreels worldwide, lead to his career with Fox Studios as a cinematographer; and

WHEREAS: In 1933, Mala became the first non-white actor to play a leading role in a Hollywood film, which was titled “Eskimo”, the first full length feature film shot in Alaska and shot in a Native American language, which also won the first Oscar for Best Film Editing; and

WHEREAS: In addition to acting, Mala was a talented cinematographer working with Oscar winning filmmakers such as Joseph LaShelle, Alfred Hitchcock, and Cecil B. DeMille; and

WHEREAS: Mala successfully overcame adversity, saw opportunity and achieved his dreams while raising awareness of Alaska Natives, their talents and contributions to American culture as a whole; and

WHEREAS: Today, Alaska Natives are following in Ray Mala’s footsteps participating in the performing arts, raising awareness of the artistic talents of Alaska Natives and promoting Alaska Native and Native American culture; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native musicians such as Pamyua, filmmakers like Andrew MacLean, actors such as Irene Bedard, and reality television stars such as Ariel Tweto are contributing to a vibrant modern Alaska Native and American culture.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN recognizes and honors Ray Mala and other Alaska Natives in the performing arts for their contributions to the Alaska Native community and American culture and recommends that Ray Mala be added to the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

SUBMITTED BY: NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION & BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



## **Subsistence**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 AFN CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-3

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO REDUCE THE CHINOOK BY-CATCH TO NO MORE THAN 15,000, SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AND PRIORITIZING ACCESS FOR SPECIFIED SUBSISTENCE USERS TO ENHANCE ESCAPEMENT

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and

**WHEREAS:** We are very concerned about the returns of the Chinook salmon which our ancestors relied on for survival; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska's native people have helped manage our subsistence resources from time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS:** We continue to get reports on the high seas by-catch of Chinook salmon and reports of throwing away the carcasses into the ocean; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaskans have observed significant changes in our climate that may affect the returns, both the current habitat, and the temperatures in the oceans; and

**WHEREAS:** Communities are concerned with the increase of radiation from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. requests that western Alaska and other tribes create an Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council further reduces the By Catch of Chinook to 15,000 and if possible a lower number

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports research the impacts of Climate Change and radiation levels in our habitats and the Bering Sea, Chuckchi Sea, Beaufort Sea and the Pacific Ocean

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives request in order to enhance immediate impact on Chinook escapements in areas of low return, that we start off the season with only federally qualified users, ceremonial, Elders, and the disabled

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives request the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to enforce escapement goals and not to continue to lower escapement goals statewide

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

SUBMITTED BY:	Association of Village Council Presidents
COMMITTEE ACTION:	Refer to Board
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 AFN CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-4

- TITLE:** PROTECTION OF ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY IN FEDERAL REVIEW OF RURAL QUALIFICATION CRITERIA AND CURRENT FAILURE OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONGRESSIONAL INTENT FOR TITLE VIII OF ANILCA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS:** The current rural determination criteria to qualify for the federal subsistence priority under Title VIII of ANILCA is primarily based upon arbitrary human population numbers from the Lower 48 that do not reflect the subsistence way of life in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Congressional intent language for, and the primary purpose of Title VIII of ANILCA specifically stated that it was to address matters left unresolved in passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, specifically regarding the promise of protecting the hunting and fishing rights of Alaska's Native people, when the extinguishment of those same aboriginal hunting and fishing rights was included in that document without the foreknowledge or informed consent of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The implementation of federal subsistence management priority criteria that is based on arbitrary population numbers threaten subsistence food security for Alaskan Native population who have the direct cultural, spiritual economic or physical relationships that are integral to the recognized patterns of subsistence use and way of life of rural Alaska or its Native Peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** Current management implementation of the subsistence priority through an arbitrary population number does not address problems incurred by increasing pressures on subsistence resources from opportunistic,

recreational or highly suspect aspects of commercial abuse under the protective guise of subsistence use, rather than the maintenance of any semblance for the direct social or cultural needs associated with the purpose of subsistence priority protections in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Rural subsistence use priority in Alaska is, and should be properly defined, as people's generational engagement in recognized patterns of use in resource harvest activities, where they can (and have) survived without the interventional "management assistance" of having their food delivered to them through exterior means common to both urban and rural areas of the "Lower 48" ; and

WHEREAS: It is a commonly understood practice that definitions or implementation criteria should reflect the intent and purpose of the enacting legislation which the current criteria fail to do; and

WHEREAS: Application of the subsistence priority with an arbitrary population number is in direct contradiction to the expressed congressional intent for Title VIII of ANILCA that results in the phasing out of Alaska Natives subsistence use participation through a highly foreseeable and perhaps predetermined assimilative process, so that when a community reaches a certain population level the Native people of that community may no longer qualify for retainment of federal recognition for their cultural, spiritual or physical ties to the subsistence use of those resources that comprises the very core of their existence; and

WHEREAS: It has been stated by Congressional members that they want to see an administrative fix for this problem that to date the Federal Subsistence Board has been unable, or otherwise chosen not to productively address regarding these concerns; and

WHEREAS: Aggregating communities in bush Alaska to come up with higher base population numbers to determine rural eligibility further threatens diminishment and disenfranchisement of Native peoples' priority access to subsistence resources which Title VIII of ANILCA was created to protect; and

WHEREAS: There are separate and standing directives from both the Secretary of Interior Salazar to address the "broken" system for subsistence management in Alaska and further broad Presidential directive to address substantive improvement in resolving issues of concern for Native Americans in general; and

WHEREAS: The federal subsistence board arbitrarily determined a ten year cycle for the rural subsistence review process. This short time frame unnecessarily traumatizes our communities by instituting continued fear in the potential loss of our subsistence rights; and

WHEREAS: ANILCA Title VIII does not outline a continued review process. This process is cumbersome, a waste of diminishing resources, unnecessary and should be removed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives asserts that in any implementation of the rural subsistence priority criteria by the Federal Subsistence Board, that it incorporate protections to first limit participation to those who are actively engaged in recognized patterns of subsistence use by allowing only indigenous customary and traditional use activities, to those who actively practice and preclude opportunistic abuse by sport, recreational, commercial or other personal use interests such as unlimited access, harvest and exportation, merely from short term residency that exists under current regulatory processes that degrade rural Alaska's subsistence use based on formulas created for the lower 48 states

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Native/Tribal concerns by informing both the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture of this non-compliance with congressional intent in Title VIII of ANILCA and advocate action to have it rectified

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this issue be forwarded to Alaska's Congressional delegation for action in the coming year and ongoing until satisfactorily resolved through all avenues deemed necessary or appropriate.

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

SUBMITTED BY: Association of Village Council Presidents

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 AFN CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-5

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE OPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Senate ratification of the Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendments of 1997 created the co-management body of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council currently consists of a representative of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, the State of Alaska and nine Alaska Native representatives from nine regions of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Since the creation of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, the organization has been solely funded by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of the proposals submitted and regulations adopted by the co-management council impact not only the Alaska Native people, but other inhabitants of “included areas;” and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives are citizens of the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska, through its membership in the co-management of migratory birds, plays an important role in the consideration and adoption of subsistence hunting regulations of migratory birds in Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the State of Alaska, by an annual appropriation by the Alaska State Legislature and support of the Governor of Alaska, to financially support the operation of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council and implementation of the provisions in the Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendments of 1997.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	Association of Village Council Presidents
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 AFN CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-6

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and
- WHEREAS:** The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) governs management of fisheries within the United States 'Exclusive Economic Zone' from three to two hundred nautical miles offshore; and
- WHEREAS:** Fisheries and marine resources and habitat are important sources of nutrition, essential part of the culture, diet, and economy for Alaska's federally recognized tribes. Marine fish, shellfish and plants are critical resources for subsistence harvests, and marine habitats support a broad variety of species which are essential to subsistence; and
- WHEREAS:** The fisheries of the United States are also important and contribute to the Nation's economy by providing employment in industrial commercial, commercial, and sport fishing; and
- WHEREAS:** The MSA established a system of eight regional management Councils to make recommendation to the Secretary of Commerce regarding management of fisheries in federal waters offshore; and
- WHEREAS:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has management authority over fisheries off the coast of Alaska and consists of 11 members; and

WHEREAS: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council makes decisions which impact Alaska tribes and subsistence dramatically, yet Alaska's tribes do not have secure representation on the Council; and

WHEREAS: The word "subsistence" appears in the MSA only once in reference to the Western Pacific; and

WHEREAS: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council manages salmon by catch in the trawl fisheries in accordance with the MSA, and by catch reduction is not strictly required in the current Act; and

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

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

WHEREAS: Congress is currently in the process of reauthorizing the MSA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives seeks the following changes to the MSA in the reauthorization:

1. Provide for tribal representation on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) by:
  - a. Add a voting member to the NPFMC under 16 USC § 1852 (b). This member will be nominated directly by Alaska's tribes and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce.
  - b. Include tribal subsistence in the list of user groups amongst whom the Secretary must maintain a balanced apportionment under 16 USC § 1852(b) (2) (B).
2. Amend the MSA to include subsistence, along with commercial and recreational fisheries and fishing communities throughout the Act.
3. Remove the \$25,000 annual limit on by catch fines for North Pacific fisheries conservation and provide for funds to be directed to the AYKSSI and Inter-tribal Fish Commissions (16 USC § 1862 (g)).
4. Mandate reductions in by catch by strengthening National Standard 9, which currently only requires by catch reduction "to the extent practicable."
5. Amend disaster relief provisions to include subsistence fishery failures and allow Tribes to request and receive disaster relief direct by (16 USC § 1861(a)).
6. Require regional fishery management councils to consult with tribal governments directly.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	REFER TO BOARD
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-7

- TITLE: FEDERAL PRIORITY OF INDIGENOUS HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING AND GATHERING
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native hunting and fishing practices, including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game, and other resources and the ceremonies which accompany these practices are essential to the social, cultural, spiritual, and economic wellbeing and survival of the Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS: In the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, Congress expected both the Secretary of Interior and the State of Alaska to uphold their promise to “take any action necessary to protect the subsistence needs of the Natives;” and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 was enacted to establish a rural subsistence priority on all Alaska’s lands and waters, but because Alaska’s constitution will not allow for a geographical preference, the ANILCA scheme has not been implemented and federal management of more than 60% of Alaska’s lands and waters continue; and
- WHEREAS: There has been no leadership by the Alaska Governor or the Alaska legislature to recommend amendments to the Alaska constitution to end the dual management systems, despite the Alaska citizens’ willingness to amend; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska’s current federal-state dual management does not include Alaska Native tribal participation, and fails to provide sustainable yield for critical traditional and customary species thus resulting in harmful reduction in Alaska Native hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering practices.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2013 Annual Convention of the AFN urges Congress enact legislation providing for a priority for indigenous hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering on all Alaskan lands and waters

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: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



## **Health, Safety, Welfare**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-8

- TITLE:** ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT OF 2013 AND REPEAL OF SECTION 910 OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 has been working for many years to improve the socio-economic status of Alaska Native people, especially for Native women and children in our villages; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the best efforts of many people, including Alaska Native leaders, there remains a serious, seemingly intractable, problem of violence, child abuse and neglect, and alcohol and drug addiction in our state; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women suffer the highest rate of forcible sexual assault in the United States; an Alaska Native woman is sexually assaulted every 18 hours, and according to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, 1 in 2 Alaska Native women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime; and
- WHEREAS:** While there are many contributing factors to the violence in our communities, the lack of an effective, local enforcement and judicial presence in our villages is a critical gap and significant reason for the current situation; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal governments in Alaska need to be able to protect their citizens through a coordinated community response; tribal courts can intervene earlier and more effectively by dealing with offenders in their own communities; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN urged Congress to include protections for Alaska Native victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking in any final bill reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act; and

WHEREAS: The final version of the reauthorization of the VAWA of 2013 contained a “Special Rule for the State of Alaska” in Section 910 which applied sections 904, Tribal jurisdiction over crimes of domestic violence, 905 tribal protection orders of VAWA only to the Metlakatla Indian Community, Annette Island Reserve; and

WHEREAS: Since passage of the VAWA and Alaska’s exclusion from the tribal provisions of the Act, AFN and tribal advocates have been working with the Alaska delegation to draft new legislation that would give tribes in Alaska the additional tools they need to unravel the complexities of what is going on – the root causes, the secondary causes, sociological efforts of how to change individual or group behavior, generational issues, public health issues and strategies, resource shortages, and jurisdictional issues between federal, state and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS: Early discussions with the Congressional staff on a draft Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act centered on recognition of tribal authority over drug and alcohol related offenses through a pilot project which acknowledged tribal court jurisdiction over such matters and the repeal of Section 910 of the VAWA; and

WHEREAS: On August 1, 2013, Senators Begich and Murkowski introduced S. 1474, the “Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act of 2013,” that encourages the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in Alaska, and repeals section 910 of the VAWA; and

WHEREAS: In light of objections from the State of Alaska, the bill that was introduced no longer contains the tribal authority/jurisdiction provisions, but rather focuses almost entirely on intergovernmental agreements between the State of Alaska and tribes that would allow tribes to enforce certain state laws; and

WHEREAS: AFN supports the repeal of Section 910 of the VAWA, and believes intergovernmental agreements can be an additional tool for Alaska’s tribes, but also believes that the bill needs to be amended to add provisions recognizing tribal authority to handle civil matters related to drug and alcohol offenses locally, through implementation of tribal laws and enforcement by tribal courts; and

WHEREAS: AFN has committed to working with our Senators to strengthen the bill and to obtain an early hearing and markup of the bill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the Alaska Federation of Natives 2013 Annual Convention, that the Alaska Congressional delegation work with AFN and tribal

leaders to amend S.1474, to establish an “Alaska Safe Families and Villages Self-Governance Project” within the Office of Tribal Justice Programs that will enable Alaska’s tribes to exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the State over civil matters involving drug and alcohol related offenses within their villages and to impose civil sanctions consistent with their laws and the Indian Civil Rights Act, including restorative justice, community service, fines and other remedies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Justice Department work with Alaska Native leaders to obtain the repeal of Section 910 of VAWA and amendments to S.1474 that would recognize and support Alaska tribes' authority to handle civil matters locally through implementation of tribal laws and enforcement by their own courts and commit to providing adequate and stable funding for tribal courts in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska be encouraged to support amendments to S.1474, and other efforts of Alaska’s tribes’ to bring their resources to the table to better address the unacceptable and disproportionate instances of crimes, civil disturbances, suicide, child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence and alcohol and drug abuse that continue to plague our communities.

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  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-9

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA) 2013 & 2014 FISCAL YEAR FUNDING
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program, created by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is a primary source of funding in Alaska for affordable housing and housing-related activities for low-income Alaska Native and American Indian families; and
- WHEREAS:** The IHBG program enables Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) to develop and operate elder and family rental housing, develop homes for homeownership, provide affordable home loans and down payment assistance, deliver housing readiness counseling, issue tenant-based and project-based rental assistance vouchers, provide weatherization upgrades, combat homelessness, and provide supportive housing for individuals with special needs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) provides funding to tribes each year for infrastructure and community facility development; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA funding enables Tribes and TDHEs to leverage significant additional public and private sector resources to serve the affordable housing needs of Alaska Native and American Indian families; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA has proven to be effective in addressing the severe shortage of safe, affordable housing in Indian country by enabling Tribes and TDHEs throughout the U.S. to construct 8,130 homeownership and 5,011 rental units, acquire 3,811

homeownership and 800 rental units, and rehabilitate 27, 422 homeownership and 5,289 rental units from 2003 to 2008 alone; and

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

WHEREAS: Although Congress may consider reductions to many federally funded programs as a result of the U.S. budget deficit, NAHASDA has proven to be an extremely effective tool for both direct and indirect job creation, providing education and training opportunities in the construction trades; and helping to stabilize communities by building high performing homes that are greatly assisting in national goals to reduce the use of fossil fuels and overall energy costs of low-income homebuyers and renters

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that Congress and the President approve FY 2013 & 2014 Indian Housing Block Grant (NAHASDA) funding at NO LESS THAN \$700 million and funding for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) at the President's proposed amount of \$100 million.

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

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-10

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF S. 1575, A BILL TO CORRECT THE INCONSISTENCIES IN THE DEFINITIONS OF “INDIAN” FOR HEALTH CARE PURPOSES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** Alaskan Tribes and Tribal organizations have assumed responsibility for all direct health services of the Indian Health Service in the State of Alaska and serve the approximately 145,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs) in Alaska;
- WHEREAS:** in recognition of the unacceptable health status of AN/AIs and the federal government’s trust responsibility to AN/AIs, Congress enacted the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in 1976 (Public Law 94-437) to ensure that the health care services were made available to and reached all AN/AI people; and
- WHEREAS:** the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Affordable Care Act or ACA) (Public Law 111-148) was enacted on March 23, 2010, to reform the health insurance market and make health care coverage more accessible and affordable for all Americans; and
- WHEREAS:** the ACA contains a number of provisions designed to ensure that AN/AIs can take advantage of the new reforms, such as cost-sharing protections, monthly enrollment options, and a mandatory enrollment penalty exemption specific to individual AN/AIs (referred to generally as “Indian” in the ACA); and
- WHEREAS:** definitions of the term “Indian” in many parts of the ACA are unduly narrow, restrictive and are not consistent with the definition used for current delivery of other federally-supported health services to AN/AIs under Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) program and from the Indian Health Service (IHS); and

WHEREAS: this inconsistency in definitions will result in many AN/AIs individuals being denied access to cost-sharing protections and special monthly enrollment periods intended for them; and

WHEREAS: on October 16, 2013, Senator Mark Begich, along with Senators Max Baucus, Brian Schatz and Tom Udall introduced S. 1575, that would streamline the definitions of "Indian" in the ACA and bring them into alignment with the definitions used for current delivery of other federally-supported health services to AN/AIs; and

WHEREAS: S.1575 would also guarantee that AI/ANs are not subjected to tax penalties for not maintaining the minimum essential insurance coverage under the ACA, even though they are eligible for Indian health care programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that in order to ensure that Alaska Natives and American Indians receive the benefits and special protections intended for them in the ACA, and that the definition of Indian in the ACA is consistent with the definition of "Indian" provided in the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) regulations at 42 CFR 447.50, Congress is urged to enact S.1575.

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  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-11

- TITLE:** TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION EQUITY ACT AND UTILIZE ALL LEGISLATIVE TOOLS TO ENSURE THAT FUNDING IS ADMINISTERED BY ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Native Education Equity Act was enacted by Congress in 2002 and provides approximately \$33 million per year in funding for programs across the State that address the needs of Alaska Native students—from early childhood education to secondary school preparation programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) does not contribute funds to the education of Alaska Native students; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Education Equity Act authorizes the use of funds under the Act for the development of curriculum and educational programs that reflect and are aligned with the cultural diversity, language and contributions of Alaska Native people and for other supplemental educational programs that support Alaska Native college and career readiness; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Educational Equity Act states that it is the policy of the Federal Government to encourage maximum participation by Alaska Native people in the planning and management of Alaska Native Education programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Act also authorizes the Department of Education to fund programs under this act administered by Alaska Native Organizations, educational entities and cultural and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS: Assessments of grant funding reflects the following:

- Fewer awards granted to Alaska Native Organizations
- More awards to school districts, University of Alaska, and other organizations, and
- Alaska Native Organizations may be identified as “Partners” with school districts, University of Alaska, or other organizations, but in actuality have little to no control or oversight of the grant development, implementation, and programs; and

WHEREAS: School Districts and Universities have access to other funding for which Alaska Native Organization are ineligible to apply; and

WHEREAS: The Act specifically prioritizes funding for Alaska Native regional nonprofit organizations or consortia that include such Alaska Native organizations; and

WHEREAS: Native Cultures and Languages have been documented to serve as resilience factors in youth, and inclusion of such content in meaningful ways can support academic success; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native corporations, organizations, and tribes throughout the State of Alaska are working to improve Native Education through intentional and strategic programs that utilize culturally relevant curricula; and

WHEREAS: Over the last ten years, Alaska Native Organizations have successfully demonstrated that they can provide programs that improve academic performance of Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Organizations, working in partnerships with Schools, Universities, or other Organizations as the lead can ensure the success of Alaska Native students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the continuation of Alaska Native Education Equity Act funding in order to meet the dire needs of Alaska Native students, and urges the Alaska delegation to pursue every means possible to ensure inclusion and continuation of the Alaska Native Education Equity Act in the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and to ensure that sufficient funding for the program is appropriated and authorized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Federation of Natives further urges Congress to take action to ensure that grants funded by the Alaska Native Educational Equity

Program are administered through Alaska Native Organizations and as lead grantees with partners, and that the Department of Education consults with Alaska Native Organizations to identify programmatic priority areas for future funding.

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

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





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-12

- TITLE:** SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC LAW 102-477 PROGRAMMING BY UPHOLDING TRIBAL MANAGEMENT OVER FEDERAL AGENCY FUNDS IN AN INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** P.L. 102-477, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992, has proven to be an exceptional success in making existing federal programming more effective in meeting the employment, training, education and welfare reform needs of Tribes and Tribal Organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477 substantially reduces the administrative cost and time to manage integrated programs, promotes efficiency, and expands ability to provide services; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477 promotes increasing the cooperation and coordination of federal agencies with regard to Tribes and Tribal Organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477 fully embodies the concepts of Tribal Self-Governance and Self-Determination found in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and
- WHEREAS:** 61 contractors and compactors, representing 264 Tribes and Tribal Organizations, have successfully adopted P.L. 102-477 in the administration of Tribal employment, training, education and welfare reform programs; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations run 17 of the 61 programs and include 217 of the 264 Tribes and Tribal Organizations in the 477 program.

WHEREAS: the P.L. 102-477 program received one of the highest Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) rating in the Department of the Interior Indian Affairs by the Office of Management and Budget; and

WHEREAS: despite the record of Tribal success with P.L. 102-477, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has historically resisted, without appropriate Tribal consultation, to fully participate in the P.L. 102-477 Program; and

WHEREAS: Tribes and Tribal Organizations have been forced to withdraw their proposed 477 plans because DHHS denies or significantly delays approval to the detriment of Tribal employment and training programs; and

WHEREAS: the Office of Management and Budget through mid-year compliance guidelines to Circular A-133 in 2009 retroactively required Tribes and Tribal Organizations to account for 477 funds by funding source, contrary to the intent of the P.L. 102-477 legislation; and

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AFN does hereby strongly urge the US Senate and House of Representatives to pass legislation (currently SB 1547) with the intent of clarifying any questions or doubts or lingering loopholes exploited by DHHS or any federal agency to the detriment of Tribal programming.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN urges the immediate and categorical withdrawal of OMB Cross-Cutting Guidelines that require that tribes and tribal organizations account for programs by individual CFDA numbers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN urges the Department of Health and Human Services to issue its opinion that HHS funds are eligible for the flexibility allowed under PL 102-477; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2013 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN requests the US Senate and House of Representatives to pass SB 1574.

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

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2013 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 13-13

TITLE: BUILDING CAPACITY TO END SUICIDE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: In 2009 the Senate on Indian Affairs Committee held a hearing on “Youth Suicide in Indian Country” and described the situation as a crisis and called upon the federal government to establish policies, programs and funding to focus on the suicidal in tribal communities; and

WHEREAS: For more than 35 years suicide rates for American Indians and Alaska Natives between the age 10 to 34 is 70% higher than the general U.S. Population therefore suicide is the second leading cause of death for our Indigenous Peoples, in fact, the rate of suicide among youth in our Native Communities is three times greater than any other youth population and we often face cluster of suicide situations; and

WHEREAS: Suicide combined with other social problems such as sexual assault, substance abuse, limited economic opportunities, low academic achievement all contribute to the destruction of Native American families, leaving behind a trail of untold sadness, violence and grief; and

WHEREAS: Many communities are isolated, experience high rates of unemployment, accidental deaths, alcoholism, social issues, and limited or no law enforcement and mental health services; and

WHEREAS: Suicide is rapidly destroying generations of Indigenous families, both in a slow suicide from alcohol and drug abuse to a fast suicide of immediate death and in certain communities, the trauma, grieving and loss can impact entire families comprised, once healthy generations; and

WHEREAS: The Indian Health Service and other agency funding for mental health services have faced cutbacks and even elimination, leaving Native American communities without treatment facilities and services; and

WHEREAS: Federal and State agencies continue to develop laws policy, regulations and programs to address critical situations; and

WHEREAS: Our indigenous Peoples have a spiritual and sacred responsibility that consists of laws and teaching held in trust by our elders, and they are the best to share and to ensure our quality of life today and generations to come is preserved; and

WHEREAS: National research and studies conducted by federal agencies and Native American communities share a common finding that generational suicide impacts are connected to trauma from past United States Federal termination policies and agreements forced upon our indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS: Indigenous communities continue to find solutions with agencies to address the need for new policies, laws, and agreements that can restore and support quality of life that has sustained the survival of Indigenous peoples across the nation for generations; and

WHEREAS: Indigenous communities have invested in the development of various partners, programs and funding opportunities with other federal/state programs, school districts, religious programs and others with the intention of implementing culturally relevant programs that build resilience of indigenous children; and

WHEREAS: Indigenous communities continue to support one another by sharing various programs that recognize the fine balance of youth being raised in two worlds of traditional teaching and western education as tools that incorporate social technology for networking, information gathering and sharing, and thus a way that respects the young people's ways to reach out to in the best way possible and to help youth express themselves with today's technology; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the Alaska Federation of Natives request Congress to provide full funding of Indian Health Services and other agency programs to levels that provide protection and prevention for a more vibrant way of life

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Federation of Natives will collaborate and partnership with tribes, organizations, local, state, and federal governments to continue to restore culture and community balance to secure the future of Indigenous children

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these partnerships will work to build recognition by local and federal agencies to address jurisdictional challenges, develop, and implement tools and policies to provide our communities the capacity to address suicide and behavioral issues affecting our communities

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this partnership will also work collaboratively to continue to heal our communities, by encouraging our communities to restore traditions and value systems, to include traditional practices and values in schools, to protect spiritual and ancestral places and to preserve and repair healthy environments

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alaska Native and Native Americans need to be recognized by local, state and federal agencies to address jurisdictional challenges, develop, and implement tools and policies to provide us the capacity to address dark challenges such as suicide and social situations affecting our communities

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

SUBMITTED BY:	ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	REFER TO BOARD
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-14

TITLE: PROTECT ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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: All nations, including tribal sovereign nations honor, respect, and hold sacred our Native women; retain our inherent right to live according to our life-affirming customs and traditions which regulates respectful boundaries for relationships among villagers; and

WHEREAS: Alaska is home to 229 or 40% of federally recognized tribes; one Native village-based off road women's shelter (the Emmonak Women's Shelter, operating since 1979); and one tribal nonprofit domestic violence and sexual assault coalition (the Yup'ik Women's Coalition operating since 2006); and

WHEREAS: less than 100 of Alaska's 200 plus rural villages are served by local, trained State law enforcement officers, many of whom are in need of culturally appropriate training on how to work with tribes and Native people within the villages; and

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

WHEREAS: the rates of missing or murdered Alaska Native women, and women and girls who are victims of sex trafficking have been largely ignored by the current justice systems and law enforcement; and

- WHEREAS: according to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium’s Epidemiology Center, Alaska Native women are disproportionately affected by both domestic and sexual violence, and by the time Alaska Native women reach adulthood, women are 51% likely to have been a victim, or more specifically 1 out of 2 women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS: the Federal government has a trust responsibility to Alaska Native tribes; and
- WHEREAS: the Federal government and the State of Alaska have not allocated sufficient resources to Alaska Native tribes, especially those in rural, remote off-road communities to address these issues. In fact, both governments have supported laws, policies, and practices that have limited Alaska Tribal governments’ authority to protect and ensure the health and well-being of our citizens, and thus created an environment where Alaska Native women are perceived and treated as little more than property; and
- WHEREAS: given the high rates of crimes and other issues, an equitable set aside is required of Federal and state resources for Alaska Native tribes to develop, implement and sustain local, culturally relevant solutions to effectively, immediately and comprehensively address the health, safety and welfare of community members, and hold offenders and predators accountable to put an end to the serial nature of their crimes and injustices; and
- WHEREAS: the State of Alaska has not complied with Sec. 2265 of the Violence Against Women Act, which requires the State to give full faith and credit to tribal protection orders; and
- WHEREAS: the final version of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 contained a “Special Rule for the State of Alaska” in Section 910, which thereby excluded Alaska’s Tribes (with the exception of Metlakatla Indian Community, Annette Island Reserve from sections 904 of VAWA; and
- WHEREAS: AFN urged Congress to include protections for Alaska Native women in VAWA 2013, yet these requests were ignored; and
- WHEREAS: because these crimes are geographically far removed from the rest of the country, they continue to rise and offenders and predators continue to commit their serial crimes with impunity; and

WHEREAS: two of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on Violence against Women and on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples called on the United States to reauthorize the Violence against Women Act with provisions that would enhance protections for all Native women.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that

1. the Federal agencies with responsibility for responding to violence against women, including but not limited to, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Indian Health Service, honor the federal trust responsibility to Alaska Natives by conducting annual, coordinated consultations with Alaska's tribes; and
2. the Federal government take a more active role in ending the unconscionable epidemic of violence against Alaska Native women and children, by
  - a. opening an Alaska District Office on Violence Against Women and ensuring meaningful access to Alaska Natives who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) and challenged by inconsistent Internet access, in order to ensure equitable access of critical resources to Alaska tribes, Native designed and operated shelters, and the Yup'ik Women's Coalition; and
  - b. repeal Section 910 of VAWA 2013 which excludes Alaska Native women from the safety, justice and services all other women in the United States are now eligible to receive; and
  - c. Through the U.S. Department of Justice, assist Alaska Native tribes with accessing and entering tribal protection orders into national protection order registries; and
  - d. provide separate annual, non-competitive funding resources to Alaska Native tribes, for life-saving services, including but not limited to law enforcement, advocacy, shelter and victim services, sexual assault forensic examinations in rural villages and Native designed and operated batterers re-education services; and
  - e. through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families work closely with the Yup'ik Women's Coalition and other long time Native women's coalitions and advocates to support the creation of an Alaska Native Resource Center to Increase the Safety of Native Women, as identified in the Reauthorization of 2010; and
3. The Alaska Federation of Natives establishes a Task Force to Increase the Safety of Native Women, co-chaired by an Alaska Native woman's village-based advocate and a tribal leader.

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

Submitted by: VILLAGE OF TETLIN, KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE, VILLAGE OF DOT LAKE, VILLAGE OF ANVIK

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Resolution 13-15

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION’S NUKA SYSTEM OF CARE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** Southcentral Foundation is the regional Alaska Native nonprofit health organization operating under the authority of Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI), to receive tribal funds pursuant to P. L. 93-638, Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and
- WHEREAS:** Southcentral Foundation’s Nuka System of Care is designed, managed, and owned by Alaska Native people, and exemplifies self-determination; and
- WHEREAS:** the Nuka System of Care was developed as a means for individuals, families communities and the world in which we live to achieve physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness; and
- WHEREAS:** some 60,000 Alaska Native customer-owners have shaped Southcentral Foundation’s Nuka System of Care through shared responsibility and relationship building, courageous quality improvement efforts and innovation; and
- WHEREAS:** the data shows that the whole system redesign and transformation led by customer-owners has resulted in improved health outcomes at a lower cost; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native people have become renowned as champions of health care improvement and change (earning the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award being lauded in the New York Times, hosting hundreds of visitors to Alaska for the annual Nuka Conference, etc.); and

WHEREAS: while leaders around the world are struggling to improve quality and access to care, they are looking to the Nuka System of Care as a model; and

WHEREAS: those who have reached out to Southcentral Foundation's Nuka Institute for assistance as they set out to make changes have achieved better health care; and

WHEREAS: there are opportunities for Alaska Native people and the customer-owned Nuka System of Care to play a larger role in improving health care; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, with membership including 178 villages (both federally-recognized tribes and village corporations), 13 regional Native corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AFN, supports Southcentral Foundation's Nuka System of Care as an example of what is possible in health care reform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AFN supports Southcentral Foundation's Nuka Institute in its efforts to share the Nuka System of Care with Alaska health care organizations and others to expand its capacity to meet the demand for training and technical assistance.

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 REGIONAL CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-16

- TITLE:** Support for Dr. William Demmert proposed amendment to the Indian Education Act Title VII Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 has placed a high priority on the education of Alaska Native children, and as an AFN policy supports Native American Immersion Schools in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and
- WHEREAS:** The late Dr. William Demmert(Tlingit) promoted an amendment to Title VII the Indian Education Act that authorizes a new section of Title VII that would support a new formula grant program for Native American Immersion schools from early childhood education centers through secondary schools; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN signed a "Joint Policy Statement" in 2008 authored by Dr. Demmert that supports federal funding of Native American Immersion schools. Other signatories included the National Indian Education Association, Native Hawaiian Education Council, National Indian School Board Association, American Indian Higher Education Consortium and Tribal Education Departments National Assembly; and
- WHEREAS:** The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is up for reauthorization and the U.S. House of Representatives has passed their version of the ESEA reauthorization and the U.S. Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee passed out of committee their version of the ESEA and both versions of the ESEA do not include the proposed immersion school provision; and

WHEREAS: A floor amendment is necessary on the U. S. Senate floor if the proposed amendment has any chance of being included in the final version of the ESEA reauthorization.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that AFN supports the proposed amendment and statutory language that would create a formula grant program through the Indian Education Act to support Native American Immersion schools

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN will request U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich to sponsor a floor amendment to include the Immersion school provision within the Senate's version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and that AFN does honor the remarkable life and achievements of the late Dr. William Demmert who was the first Commissioner of Indian Education and primary author of the historic Indian Education Act of 1972.

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

SUBMITTED BY: KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-17

**TITLE:** RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF THE RURAL ALASKA VILLAGE GRANT SANITATION FACILITIES PROGRAM

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** Alaska ranks last in water and sewer infrastructure in the country; and

**WHEREAS:** 22% of communities in Rural Alaska and 43 villages are un-served by water and sewer service; and

**WHEREAS:** the rate of hospitalization for pneumonia, influenza, skin infections, and lower respiratory tract infections is higher for Alaska Native infants and elders in communities with inadequate sanitation services as compared to similar populations in communities with adequate facilities, and are significantly higher than the US population; and

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

**WHEREAS:** the estimated need to bring sanitation services to Rural Alaska is \$667 million; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives have the same right to the safe drinking water as their fellow citizens in other States.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that AFN urges Congress to reauthorize Section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, the Rural Alaska Village Grant Program.

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

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





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-18

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE FULL IMPACT OF POTENTIAL MEDICAID EXPANSION IS CONSIDERED AND TO TAKE COMPLETE ADVANTAGE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska has the option to expand Medicaid benefits by increasing the income eligibility level to 138% of the federal poverty level; and
- WHEREAS:** Independent analyses indicate significant benefits to individual Alaskans and to the Alaskan economy; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 40,000 more Alaskans (including 16,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians) would be covered by Medicaid; and
- WHEREAS:** The increase in eligible beneficiaries would provide increased access to care, patient travel and services that individuals are not able to afford, such as glasses, certain dental and other procedures; and
- WHEREAS:** Increasing access to care leads to healthier Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS:** The State would receive \$1.1 billion in federal revenues for the first seven years of implementation (2014-2020) for a net state contribution of \$23.4 million (\$90.7 million minus \$67.3 in offsets); and
- WHEREAS:** 4,000 new jobs would be created with \$1.2 billion in Alaskan wages and salaries throughout Alaska (2014-2020); and

WHEREAS: The multiplier effect of additional resources will benefit the State economy and all Alaskans by an estimated \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout Alaska (2014-2020); and

WHEREAS: Medicaid expansion would benefit health care providers and payers, who are effectively required to subsidize care for uninsured and underinsured patients as well as businesses and other patients who support those subsidies through higher premiums, deductibles and copays. The uninsured and underinsured patients now seek care in the most expensive settings, often after their condition has become more serious and complicated than it would have been if they had access to primary care; and

WHEREAS: The federal match to the State of Alaska would be 100% for 2014-2016, then gradually transition to 90% by 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS: This federal match is consistent with the federal match for other programs (roads at 9%; runways at 5%); and

WHEREAS: The State has the option of Medicaid Expansion authorization contingent upon receiving a federal match rate of at least 90%; and

WHEREAS: The State has the option of various Medicaid Expansion demonstration projects it may also consider

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to continue their efforts to conduct responsible, thorough analyses of potential models for implementing Medicaid expansion to determine their full potential impact on Alaska, including potential improvement to the health status of Alaskans who currently lack sufficient health coverage, enhanced support to businesses involved in the health care industry, the multiplier effect on Alaska's economy, the potential ability to reduce or eliminate cross-subsidies for health care now provided to the uninsured and underinsured and financing models for Alaska

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to adopt Medicaid expansion effective January 1, 2014 so that so that Alaska residents can benefit from the services at the earliest opportunity.

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

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2013 Annual Convention  
Resolution 13-19

**TITLE:** URGING PRESIDENT OBAMA AND CONGRESS TO PROTECT SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides financial assistance to low-income individuals and families to purchase food needed for good health; and

**WHEREAS:** Nearly 30% of Alaska Natives and American Indians live at the poverty level; and

**WHEREAS:** Rural Alaskan households, which are predominately Alaska Native, use more than half of household income to pay for the rising cost of energy, leaving families with fewer resources for food; and

**WHEREAS:** More than 91,000 Alaskan households participated in SNAP in fiscal year 2012; and

**WHEREAS:** Even at current rates, SNAP benefits fall short of covering the gap in costs for food in rural Alaskan communities, where jobs are limited and the cost of living is significantly higher than in urban areas; and

**WHEREAS:** Congress is considering significantly reducing funding for SNAP in FY2014, which will threaten the health and safety of low income Alaska Native families

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN urges President Obama and Congress to recognize the critical gap in food security that SNAP addresses in Alaska and to protect current funding for SNAP in FY2014.

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:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-20

**TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS IN REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Natives, both individuals and families, are significantly affected by the abuse of alcohol and drugs in rural Alaska; and

**WHEREAS:** there are very limited treatment options for Alaska Natives to receive recovery services in their home regions due to past budget cuts; and

**WHEREAS:** the majority of crimes and child in need of aid cases in Alaska Native communities are alcohol and drug related and untreated individuals have extremely high recidivism rates; and

**WHEREAS:** the social costs attributed to alcohol and drug addictions to whole Alaska Native communities are devastating both spiritually and economically; and

**WHEREAS:** generations of Alaska Natives have been impacted by addictive behaviors and need the cycle of addiction to be broken to attain wellness and improve our quality of life.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that AFN supports the establishment of alcohol and drug treatment centers in each of the 12 regional communities that expands the treatment options for Alaska Native individuals and families

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal, state and private agencies are called upon for their support, resources and funding for this initiative and long-term social investment.

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 KOTZEBUE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-21

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING PLACEMENT AND TRANSITIONAL HOMES IN THE REGIONAL COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 women and children experience domestic violence at a higher rate in rural Alaska and need safe temporary homes or housing while in transition; and
- WHEREAS:** the housing stock is very limited in rural Alaska as well as expensive due to the costs of energy for maintaining a home; and
- WHEREAS:** children in need of aid (CINA) cases often need emergency/temporary placement until a relative placement or foster home can be secured; and
- WHEREAS:** there is a shortage of Alaska Native foster homes in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** there is an additional financial burden on Native families who are willing to be relative placement on a short-term and/or permanently; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Children are disproportionately represented in the Child Welfare System with a majority of them being placed in non-relative, non-native foster homes; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes and Non-Profit Regional Organizations often have limited financial means to support and secure relative placement foster homes; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribally licensed foster homes have the potential to fill the gap and provide culturally relevant housing services that could be resolved by the State of

Alaska's approval of the Tribally Licensed Foster Home Guidelines developed by the Tribal ICWA programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that federal, state and private funders are urged to support placement and transitional homes in rural communities to address the social needs of Alaska Native children, youth and women

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the support of such homes must be done in cooperation with regional nonprofit organizations to ensure cultural relevance, design and operation.

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 KOTZEBUE
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-22

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOMELESS SHELTERS IN THE REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Natives that experience homelessness in rural areas often are left without any support or resources to assist them through re-establishing themselves and their lives; and

WHEREAS: the cost of housing in rural Alaska is very expensive, including the costs of energy for maintaining a home; and

WHEREAS: homelessness is common among youth and young adults, and often masked in rural Alaska with multiple generations living in a single-overcrowded household; and

WHEREAS: homelessness is also common among individuals addicted to substances that need to “hit bottom” and re-build their lives to escape of the cycle of addictive behaviors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 annual convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that federal, state and private funders are urged to support the statewide development of homeless shelters in rural hub communities to address the social needs of youth/young adults and addicted individuals

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the development of such shelters must be done in cooperation with regional nonprofit organizations, particularly housing authorities, to ensure cultural relevance and design.

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 KOTZEBUE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-23

- TITLE:** ACTION SUPPORTING MEANINGFUL CHEMICALS POLICY REFORM AND NOT SUPPORTING THE CHEMICAL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT (S.1009) AS CURRENTLY DRAFTED
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2000, the Alaska Federation of Natives passed Resolution 00-44 in support of the elimination of persistent pollutants that threaten our health and the health of future generations; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2002, the Youth and Elders Conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives passed Resolution EY-17 in support of the elimination of persistent pollutants that threaten our health and the health of future generations; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2011, the Alaska Federation of Natives passed Resolution 11-03 in support of protecting the health of present and future generations by preventing toxic exposures through chemicals policy reform; and
- WHEREAS:** Toxic exposures continue to threaten our health due to our ineffective and outdated federal law—the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA) that was intended to regulate chemicals used in commerce; and
- WHEREAS:** Today there are more than 80,000 chemicals on the market, most of which have never been tested for safety for human health and the environment; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of these chemicals are ultimately found in our traditional foods, our environment, our bodies, and in our homes, even though these chemicals have never been produced in Alaska or the circumpolar Arctic; and

- WHEREAS: Research has demonstrated that Alaska Native and other Native American populations are at higher health risk from certain substances that are toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulate in the environment, the food web, and in the human body; and
- WHEREAS: Studies show that developing children, youth, elders, and those with chronic illnesses are particularly vulnerable to health effects caused by exposure to persistent and toxic chemicals. We are particularly concerned about preventing cancers and other diseases that are known to be associated with chemical exposures. These chemicals also can be passed from a mother to her child and thus harm our future generations; and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives is concerned about the greater health risks to Alaska Native and Native American Peoples due to our reliance on traditional, subsistence foods integral to our culture; and
- WHEREAS: It took more than 35 years for the U.S. federal government to introduce the Chemical Safety Improvement Act (S.1009), a bi-partisan bill that would reform our ineffective federal law TSCA; and
- WHEREAS: The Chemical Safety Improvement Act does not provide the health protections that Alaska Native and other Native American Peoples need because it fails to explicitly protect the health of children, elders, pregnant women, and other vulnerable populations such as those communities with disproportionate chemical exposures (“hotspot” communities); and
- WHEREAS: Our Alaska Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich, who currently serve as co-sponsors of the Chemical Safety Improvement Act, must take leadership roles in strengthening and clarifying the bill by including the following provisions: 1) require expedited action on the worst chemicals; 2) ensure the protection of our most vulnerable people; 3) require swift action to address “hotspot” communities that are disproportionately exposed to toxic chemicals; 4) require that chemical manufacturers prove the safety of their products; 5) ensure our right-to-know about chemical exposures and chemical hazards; and 6) require substitution of safe alternatives to replace harmful chemicals; and
- WHEREAS: We trust that our Alaska Senators will read this resolution and join us and other groups in developing and advancing the TSCA reform legislation that provides meaningful protections from, and safer solutions to, harmful chemicals; and

WHEREAS: We also call upon the Alaska State Legislature to enact state legislation during the upcoming legislative session in order to protect the health of our children who are exposed to toxic chemicals in products marketed for children, such as nap mats, crib mattresses, toys, and other products; and

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

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

BE IT FINNALLY RESOLVED that Alaska Senators and Representative to the U.S. Congress take leadership on chemicals policy reform and use the full power of their offices to urge Congress to transform the more than 35-year old law, the Toxic Substances Control Act, by addressing the deficiencies in the Chemical Safety Improvement Act of 2013 (S.1009).

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 SAVOONGA, NATIVE VILLAGE OF GAMBELL
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-24

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ENHANCE ITS PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AGAINST DANGEROUS DRUGS IN RURAL ALASKA

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** In the recent past social problems in the Rural Communities appear to have gotten worse, as measured by a high number of suicides and other deaths related to substance abuse; and

**WHEREAS:** In the past few months there have been several arrests for black tar heroin and methamphetamines in rural Alaska, and anecdotal evidence suggests these arrests merely scratch the surface of a much bigger problem and that a trafficking route through many rural communities developed by couriers who take air transportation, sea vessels, and other routes of transportation to rural communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Although the State of Alaska has increased the number of VPSOs in rural Alaska and devoted some additional spending on domestic violence and sexual assault, there has been no particular focus on drugs and substance abuse, and the State Administration has relentlessly opposed tribal jurisdiction and tribal alternatives to the state justice system

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. that AFN urges the State of Alaska to step up its enforcement activities against dangerous drugs such as heroin and methamphetamines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Governor Parnell and the responsible agencies of the State of Alaska are urged to seek creative solutions and partnerships to reduce substance abuse, such as: using the “Choose Respect” initiative to bolster community awareness; partnering with the rural air carriers, fish processing companies and municipal governments in hub communities for better airport and boat harbor screening; and recognizing tribal authority and deferring appropriate cases, particularly juvenile cases, to the tribes.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	BRISTAL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASS



## **LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES**



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2013 Annual Convention  
Resolution 13- 25

- TITLE:** SUPPORT THE CONTINUING WORK OF THE STATE OF ALASKA SUB-CABINET ON CLIMATE CHANGE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** former Governor Palin created an Administrative Order that addressed climate change impact and changes; and
- WHEREAS:** the Immediate Action Workgroup (IAW) was formed from the development of the Governor’s Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change; and
- WHEREAS:** a member of the Corps of Engineers and the State DCCED co-chaired the IAW; and
- WHEREAS:** the IAW committee consisted of members from several organizations and agencies that were from both the State and Federal programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the IAW was a very effective committee that put upper level staff of the agencies and organizations in an arena that allowed for information sharing and important dialogue; and
- WHEREAS:** the IAW made recommendations to the State, the Corps of Engineers, and other agencies to fund mitigation projects that addressed the immediate threats from flooding and erosion; and
- WHEREAS:** the IAW allowed members and leaders from the communities that are threatened from flooding and erosion to share their threats and dire circumstances; and

WHEREAS: the IAW has not met for some time and has been inactive; and

WHEREAS: the threats to life and property still exists and if anything is getting worse.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention request the State of Alaska Administration to continue the work of the Governor's Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the AFN Convention support the resurrection of the IAW and urge the State to take the lead to reinstate the past workgroup.

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

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-26

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO CHANGE STATE LAW REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO RECONVEY LAND FOR VALID PENDING NATIVE ALLOTMENTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** Valid claims are pending, many dating over 40 years, and whereby these allotments were erroneously conveyed to the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and
- WHEREAS:** To return the allotment land, the State DNR follows state law; and
- WHEREAS:** The state law currently allows the DNR to refuse to give back Native allotment land; and
- WHEREAS:** A bill has been drafted by Senator John Coghill requiring the State to quitclaim to the federal government land or an interest in land that was wrongfully or erroneously conveyed to the State by the federal government; and
- WHEREAS:** The recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State of Alaska and BLM allows the State DNR to continue to refuse to give back the allotment land and provides an overall distraction to the original, rightful claim, ignoring the traditional and cultural use of the land which provides the basis.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., the Alaska State Legislature is urged to change the law and require that Native allotment land conveyed to the state be reconvened back to the BLM for ultimate transfer to the rightful allotment claimant

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:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS



## **ECONOMIC**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-28

- TITLE: FULL FUNDING OF INDIRECT COSTS (CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS)
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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, Inc. (AFN) is the recognized voice of the Alaska Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS: the AFN is comprised of Alaska Native organizations, including Native corporations incorporated pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Regional Tribal non-profit organizations, and federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS: Initially the federal government was supposed to transfer to tribal contractors those administrative functions and funding that federal agencies would have spent had they continued to manage the programs themselves.
- WHEREAS: This was supposed to reduce federal administrative costs, with the associated federal savings transferred to tribes.
- WHEREAS: The U.S. Supreme Court in Cherokee Nation and Ramah declared that 638 contracts must be fully paid, the same as all other federal contractors. This includes 638 contractors' lawfully established indirect costs.
- WHEREAS: The federal government, not the tribal contractor, controls the determination of the indirect cost rate because it must conform with federal regulations and OMB circulars.
- WHEREAS: Federal law (25 USC 450j-1(d)) says there will be no theoretical under-recovery or over-recovery, meaning that the federal government is supposed to pay all indirect costs.

*"TREATMENT OF SHORTFALLS IN INDIRECT COST RECOVERIES. (1) Where a tribal organization's allowable indirect cost recoveries are below the level of indirect costs that the tribal organizations should have received for any given year pursuant to its approved indirect cost rate, and such shortfall is the result of lack of full indirect cost funding by any Federal, State, or other agency, such shortfall in recoveries shall not form the basis for any theoretical over-recovery or other adverse adjustment to any future years' indirect cost rate or amount for such tribal organization, nor shall any agency seek to collect such shortfall from the tribal organization. (2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the Secretary to fund less than the full amount of need for indirect costs associated with a self-determination contract." This was signed into law by President Reagan on October 5, 1988, PL 100-472.*

WHEREAS: The Supreme Court (Court) held in *Salazar v. Ramah* that the federal government must pay in full each tribe's contract support costs incurred by a tribal contractor under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. § 450, even if Congress has failed to appropriate sufficient funds to cover all of the contract support costs owed to all tribal contractors collectively.

WHEREAS: The Court held that every contract is a deal between two parties and both are supposed to perform their part of the deal. That means that if the job covered by the contract is done as it should be then that party is entitled to be paid what has been promised.

WHEREAS: Indian tribes sued the federal government because it did not pay all of the costs it had promised to cover when the two sides made their deal for the tribe to provide education and other government-like functions for their members.

WHEREAS: The Court ruled that a promise is a promise, even if the government doesn't have immediately available enough money to pay all of the contractors it had promised to pay for their services.

WHEREAS: The "Judgment Fund" is supposed to cover claims against the federal government for money owed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) work with United States Congress and the Administration to pass legislation to increase the federal budget to fully fund all indirect costs owed to Tribes and Tribal contractors for all federal contracts managed by those Tribes and Tribal organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN request that the federal government immediately pay past claims of unpaid indirect costs or contract support costs to Tribes and Tribal Contractors out of the federal Judgment Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urge NCAI invites all tribes, tribal issue organizations, and regional and intertribal organizations to join in this effort to uphold its fiduciary responsibility by paying all indirect costs and contract support costs as required by Court decisions and federal law.

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

CONVENTION ACTION:

PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-29

- TITLE:** PROTECT TRIBAL PROGRAMS FROM IMPACTS OF SEQUESTRATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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, Inc. (AFN) is the recognized voice of the Alaska Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** the AFN is comprised of Alaska Native organizations, including Native corporations incorporated pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Regional Tribal non-profit organizations, and federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS:** the Congress of the United States is attempting to seek solutions to balance the budget of the United States and is beginning the process of cutting the budget with the passage of the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 that made automatic, across the board budget cuts that began in FY 2013 for a ten year period in a process known as “sequestration”; and
- WHEREAS:** the sequestration cuts went into effect on March 1, 2013 because there was no Congressional action to prevent them from going into effect; and
- WHEREAS:** because federal programs for needy Tribal citizens have historically been underfunded these cuts, of 5 percent or greater, have begun to have immediate and devastating impacts throughout Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS:** the federal government has a unique political fiduciary responsibility to Tribal nations as domestic dependent nations, a relationship recognized in the United States Constitution, Supreme Court rulings, and through the ratification of numerous federal laws; and

WHEREAS: because of their status as domestic dependent nations the federal government has a fiduciary trust obligation to tribal nations and this obligation is not discretionary; and

WHEREAS: Tribes have effectively used federal funding received from most Departments and agencies, especially the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), to improve the economic, social and education circumstances for Native American and Alaska Native people as well as to provide a “safety-net” of support to families victimized by high unemployment rates; and

WHEREAS: the President has reversed the impact of sequestration in non-BIA agencies in the Department of the Interior (DOI) by increasing non-BIA agency funding by greater than 5% but has not acted to avoid the disastrous and devastating cuts to funding for the trust responsibility to Indian Country; and

WHEREAS: the abrupt and arbitrary nature of the across-the-board cuts as a result of sequestration are having damaging effects on the progress made in addressing the serious problems facing Indian Country; and

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

WHEREAS: further cuts planned for FY 2014 will add misery to the lives of hundreds of thousands of tribal citizens throughout Indian Country who are among the most vulnerable citizens within the United States and who are among the poorest, including single parents, and will not substantially reduce the deficit.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) work with United States Congress and the Administration to pass legislation to amend the FY 2014 federal budget to increase Bureau of Indian Affairs funding by at least 5.11%, commensurate with other agencies in the Department of the Interior

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN request that federal legislation be passed to immediately exempt all tribal programs from the current sequestration and any future sequestration of appropriations

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN invites all tribes, tribal issue organizations, and regional and intertribal organizations to join in this effort to reverse the negative effects of sequestration on Tribal programs

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urge the NCAI Federal Budget Taskforce to continue to develop and implement strategies to ensure trust and treaty obligations are protected in the federal budget and appropriations process and work to address sequestration's impacts in Indian Country.

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

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





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-30

- TITLE:** ENERGY AFFORDABILITY THROUGH WEATHERIZATION AND RENEWABLE SYSTEMS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** Affordable and readily available energy is crucial for the future survival of our villages. Most villages are off the grid, operating in micro-grids where distribution generation provides for local needs; and
- WHEREAS:** Energy costs in rural Alaska can be as high \$1/kWh and heating oil can cost as much as \$7/gallon. A study by University of Alaska, Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) states rural households—those in the lowest income bracket—spend 47% of their entire income on home energy; and
- WHEREAS:** Since the year 2000, the price of oil in many villages has increased by more than 400%, putting strain not just on personal budgets but on the budgets of key employers in a community; and
- WHEREAS:** School districts, cities and businesses are responding to increased heat and electric bills by cutting back on staff, reducing programs and services and increasing the cost of goods; and
- WHEREAS:** State and Federal funding for weatherization and energy efficiency programs may be diminishing in the future with proposed budget cuts; and
- WHEREAS:** The need for weatherization programs and heating system change-outs is far outstripping the funding supply of the existing programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Between the years 2000 to 2010 many community populations have diminished, in some cases by 30%, due to rising costs in energy

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Alaska State Legislature, and government officials to:

1. Support programs and funding for weatherization throughout the State of Alaska; and
2. Invest in heating systems and pilot projects that use local sources such as biomass to reduce imported diesel and support cost savings; and
3. Help educate community leaders and residents on planning, financing, and engineering efficient energy systems, and ensure operators and maintenance are available for the duration of systems; and
4. Enact legislation for long-term energy relief in rural Alaska and as well as along the railbelt.
5. Support the All Alaska Energy Project

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:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-31

TITLE: ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FIXED AND MOBILE BROADBAND

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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: Accessible and affordable fixed and mobile broadband is a significant driver of economic development with the potential for positive impact to nearly every challenge facing Alaska Tribes; and

WHEREAS: Access to health care, education and social services increasingly relies on dependable broadband; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska communities have some of the poorest broadband penetration rates in the nation and rely on relatively expensive, low-bandwidth access; and

WHEREAS: Unique factors such as the Interior Alaska climate, terrain and remoteness, the cost to provide mobile and fixed broadband services per household are cost prohibitive or at a minimum, require substantial subsidization by state and federal funding programs; and

WHEREAS: marginal availability continues to widen the 'digital divide' across Interior Alaska, resulting in fewer modern economic development opportunities, prolonged unemployment rates, socioeconomic instability, and a gradual out-migration and decline of Interior Alaska village-based populations; and

WHEREAS: In November 2011, the Federal Communications Commission reformed the Universal Service Fund (USF) for high-cost rural areas by adopting new rules targeted toward improving efficiency of the program and implementing policies to incentivize and stimulate build-out and/or preserve rural telecommunications infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: High Cost Loop System (HCLS) reforms, adopted in April 2012, could ultimately lead to the degradation or elimination of services in those rural Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS: The 2011 FCC Transformation Order requires telecommunications providers that received USF support to meaningfully engage with the tribal governments to ensure open dialogue and communication.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN recommends that the intent of the Universal Service Fund should be preserved and new reforms presented under the National Broadband Plan and subsequent Universal Services and Intercarrier Compensation Transformation Orders will ultimately drive advanced telecommunications investment and services into rural Interior 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: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



**Other**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-32

TITLE: RECOGNITION OF THE ONE FOOT HIGH KICK INTO THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 International Olympic Committee is an Internationally Recognized Corporation based in Lausanne, Switzerland, and,

WHEREAS: The International Olympic Committee organizes the Olympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games, and,

WHEREAS: The Olympic Games include a field of 58 sports in the Summer and Winter Olympics, and,

WHEREAS: Kayaking is an indigenous sport in which participants compete in the traditional indigenous waterborne activity, and,

WHEREAS: The Inuit Inukshuk was the official 2010 Winter Olympics logo at Vancouver, Canada, and,

WHEREAS: There are no indigenous sports held in the Olympics that have been introduced by the Northern Indigenous People of the world, and,

WHEREAS: The One Foot High Kick is traditionally practiced in Northern Regions of Canada, Greenland, Russia, and the United States of America.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., support that the One Foot High Kick as a sport be included into the Winter Olympic Games by the International Olympic Committee, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the One Foot High Kick be inducted into the permanent collection of sports in the Winter Olympic Games to be held every four years.

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

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 AFN CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-33

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF SLED DOG MUSHING IN ALASKA AND TO AFFIRM ALASKA AS A "RIGHT TO MUSH" STATE AND TO PROTECT THE CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL ACTIVITY OF SLED DOG MUSHING FOR THE SPIRITUAL, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF ALASKANS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being, and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has an extensive system of accountability, approved by The federal government, for schools and school districts; and
- WHEREAS:** The State sport of Alaska is mushing; it is embraced by Native and non-Native persons alike, who continue to live with dogs, travel by dog team and perpetuate the culture and tradition of dog mushing that has been exercised for thousands of years in Alaska by Native Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska is historically home to sled dogs and dog mushers. It is an important thread in the fabric of Alaskan life, an important aspect of the spiritual wellbeing and cultural identity; and
- WHEREAS:** Sled Dog mushing is more than a sport, it is a way of life that has roots in ancient times when man first bonded with animals. This relationship helped Native Alaskans to live, hunt, thrive, and populate this state prior to the arrival of mechanized means of transportation; and
- WHEREAS:** Mushing is under attack in Alaska. Sled dog mushers around the state are experiencing harassment through frivolous lawsuits, the hampering of kennel operations, sled dog training runs and obstruction of trails; and

WHEREAS: Musherers all over the state are being bullied, intentionally disturbed and bothered by individuals who have no respect for the art of dog mushing, dog husbandry and the traditional Alaskan way of life; and

WHEREAS: Dog mushers contribute to the image of Alaska as the last frontier state; they contribute to state and local economies by providing popular tourist attractions; they contribute to the Alaskan sports scene by holding sled dog races that attract millions of fans worldwide and provide excitement and purpose locally; they contribute to the pride, spiritual and physical wellbeing and cultural identity of fans and mushers alike, whether be it through racing or recreationally mushing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates of the 2013 Alaska Federation of Natives support the creation of the Code of the North, which establishes Alaska as a "Right to Mush" state. The Code of the North entails that people who chose to live in Alaska should embrace the fact that sled dog mushing is still alive and practiced. The Code of the North is based on the honor that sled dog mushing brings, and the grit and tenacity learned from mushing miles through open wild country in harsh weather conditions. Mushers –provided that they honorably maintain their kennel and humanely treat the dogs - need the support of Alaskans so that they are able to perpetuate the tradition and culture of sled dog keeping in Alaska for future generations.

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

SUBMITTED BY:	ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 AFN CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-34

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL RESIDENTS TO OBTAIN AN INITIAL STATE OF ALASKA IDENTIFICATION CARD
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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, through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), provides the only service to obtain a State of Alaska Identification Card; and
- WHEREAS:** Rural residents may renew State of Alaska identification cards through the State DMV web site, however the initial identification card must be obtained within a DMV office; and
- WHEREAS:** A State of Alaska Identification Card may be used as a primary form of identification in such instances as travel, banking and employment purposes; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has 34 DMV offices throughout Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Rural residents may not have the opportunity to travel to hub communities where DMV offices may be located to obtain an Identification Card due to the high cost of travel; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska should provide its rural residents the same opportunity to obtain State services otherwise provided within its hub communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska should explore creative solutions to address this issue, such as utilizing resources within a rural community that may already exist to aid in providing this service.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that we request that the State of Alaska consider alternative solutions to increasing Identification Card services to village residents.

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

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





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-35

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE FAIRBANKS FOUR

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: in 1997 four young boys; Marvin Roberts, Eugene Vent, Kevin Pease and George Frese, of Fairbanks, Alaska; were arrested and subsequently convicted of the murder of John Hartman, himself a young boy; and

WHEREAS: Roberts, Vent and Frese are Alaska Natives of the Tanana Chiefs Conference Region and Pease is American Indian; and

WHEREAS: Roberts, Vent, Pease and Frese have continually and consistently maintained and asserted their innocence of the crimes for which they were convicted, and

WHEREAS: the tribes of the Tanana Chiefs Conference Region have long challenged their convictions as wrongful and based on insufficient, improper and fabricated evidence, and false and coerced confessions; and

WHEREAS: the Full Board of Directors of Tanana Chiefs, representing 42 tribes and tribal entities with more than 14,000 tribal members, has annually adopted since 1999 resolutions demanding the review of this case and calling for the exoneration of the four men; and

WHEREAS: since 2008 TCC has supported the Alaska Innocence Project in their efforts to fight this wrongful conviction and free the young men now known as the Fairbanks Four; and

WHEREAS: through diligent and tireless efforts, the Alaska Innocence Project was able to file on September 25, 2013, Applications for Post-Conviction Relief for Roberts, Pease and Frese, which contain the handwritten confession of William Holmes,

describing what actually happened to John Hartman and exonerating Roberts, Vent, Pease, and Frese; and

WHEREAS: the Applications for Post-Conviction Relief also contain other information disproving other trial testimony and so-called evidence used to convict the Fairbanks Four; and

WHEREAS: the attorney for Vent also filed an Application for Post-Conviction Relief based on said confession and review; and

WHEREAS: TCC holds that the wrongful convictions affect the entire statewide Native and Non-Native Communities, quoting and upholding Dr. Martin Luther King's assertion that "Justice denied anywhere is justice denied everywhere".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation Native membership and Board of Directors express their support for the efforts to re-examine this case and right the wrongful conviction of four innocent men. This support takes the form of continuing to demand that the State of Alaska diligently and timely address the issues raised in the current Post-Conviction Applications and to re-examine the case to see that justice is done.

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: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED WITH UNANIMOUS SUPPORT





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-36

- TITLE:** INCREASE ALASKA NATIVE VOTER TURN OUT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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:** AFN recognizes that a strong grassroots effort is needed; and encourages all tribes, regional and village corporations, health consortiums, and inter-tribal organizations to have a Native Vote coordinator. There is a need to get the community mobilized early, starting with registration, as Alaska Natives are unregistered at higher rates than other communities; and
- WHEREAS:** There has been an effort, by the State’s election officials to suppress the Alaska Native vote by not providing ballots in Native languages when necessary. The indifference by State election officials to ignore their responsibilities to the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the US Constitution has contributed to depressed voter participation in the neglected Native communities, including some with turnout 20 to 30 percent lower than turnout in non-Native communities; and
- WHEREAS:** If Alaska Natives fail to recruit new eligible voters, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to strike down parts of the 1965 Voting Rights Act will have wide impacts for Alaska Natives who have historically been discriminated against at the polls. The Voting Rights Act previously protected Alaska Natives from being gerrymandered out of the Alaska Legislature by political Redistricting Boards and without the Voting Rights Act Alaska Natives do not have that protection; and
- WHEREAS:** Voting rights are under attack in this country as state legislatures nationwide pass voter suppression laws under the pretext of preventing voter fraud and safeguarding election integrity. These voter suppression laws take many forms, and collectively lead to significant burdens for eligible voters trying to exercise

their most fundamental constitutional right. In Alaska, House Bill 3 seeks to require Voting ID when the Alaska Legislature is aware there is a large population of rural Alaska that does not have government issue ID. Also in Alaska, House Bill 104 seeks to move the primary election date to the second week of August when the Alaska Legislature is aware there is a large population of rural Alaska that will be subsistence hunting and fishing; and

WHEREAS: In order to seek movement from our elected officials on the issues that significantly impact Alaska Natives including: hunting and fishing rights, criminal justice, education, public safety, and health care, Alaska Natives must have higher voter turn-outs; and

WHEREAS: Each Alaska Native rural village and urban center should have multiple voter registrars empowered to register voters and voter awareness education. A focus should be on the 18-35 year old age group which is significantly under-represented through creative media and educational campaigns.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT each Alaska Native region create a voter registration and Get Out the Native Vote plan to increase Alaska Native voter turn-out in the 2014 election

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN oppose HB 3 and HB 104.

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: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-37

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Legal Services Corporation's (ALSC's) twenty-four lawyers in eleven offices around the state serve a population of over 168,000 Alaskans living below 200% of the poverty threshold, including more than 40,000 Alaska Natives; and

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

WHEREAS: Each year ALSC must turn away more than 600 qualified individuals with critical legal needs due to its limited resources; and

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

WHEREAS: Although the May 2000 Alaska Supreme Court Access to Civil Justice Task Force Report recommended that ALSC be funded at \$5 million annually, ALSC's actual funding is far less than that at only \$3.6 million; and

WHEREAS: Several regional Native nonprofits, including Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents and Maniilaq Association have made significant financial and in-kind contributions over the years to support local ALSC offices in the communities of Bethel, Dillingham, and Kotzebue; and others, including the CIRI, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, and the Nome Eskimo Community have otherwise provided support for ALSC; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for FY 2013, approved by Governor Parnell, in the amount of \$550,000, but this amount is far less than needed to assure that all Alaskans have access to equal justice and it is unclear whether this will be sustained in future fiscal years; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges Governor Parnell to retain and increase the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed FY 2014 budget, and urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding, and urges Congress to award sufficient funding to the federal Legal Services Corporation to support Alaska Legal Services Corporation's mission of providing free legal services on vital issues to low income Alaskans.

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

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-38

TITLE: AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL INITIATIVE

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Its membership includes 178 villages (both federally-recognized tribes and village corporations), 13 regional Native corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs. The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native/ American Indian and Native Hawaiians serve at the highest per capita rate in the Armed Forces compared to any group of Americans, and have served with valor in all the Nation's wars from the Revolutionary War through the present; and

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

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

WHEREAS: there is a National Monument commonly referred to as the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial" recognizing those Veterans who served both living and dead;

WHEREAS: a part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are the figures called "The Three Servicemen"; and

WHEREAS: "The Three Servicemen" are wearing uniforms and carry equipment of war, one serviceman has the appearance of a Caucasian, the other African-American and the third resembles a Hispanic soldier; and

WHEREAS: it is NOT practicable to add another soldier to an existing Iconic Memorial as “The Three Servicemen”; and

WHEREAS: a founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Jan Scruggs, Vietnam Veteran, wanted the memorial to acknowledge and recognize the service and sacrifice of ALL who served in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS: an opportunity exists for the Alaska Federation of Natives to be at the forefront of an “INITIATIVE” to encourage Indian Tribes, Indian Veteran Organizations, and Non-Indian Veteran Organizations; and

WHEREAS: this Initiative shall be charged with the responsibility to go into Indian Country to communicate with Local, Regional, and National Indian and Non-Indian groups necessary to gather support in an effort to obtain Congressional authorization to erect/build a Statue at the entrance of the Education Center of the Vietnam Wall; and

WHEREAS: the Statue will recognize the contributions and sacrifices of All American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian Soldiers in All Wars; and

WHEREAS: the Alaska Federation of Natives has been otherwise fully advised.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby recognizes, approves, and supports the “American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative”.

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

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF DIRECTORS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASS



## **ANSCA/TRIBAL**



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2013 Annual Convention  
Resolution 13-39

- TITLE:** AUTHORIZING STATEWIDE HEARINGS ON SUBSISTENCE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Subsistence is the foundation of Alaska Native cultures and the mainstay of food security in Native villages; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (“ANCSA”) extinguished aboriginal hunting and fishing rights because Congress expected the State of Alaska and the Secretary of the Interior “to take any action necessary to protect the subsistence needs of Alaska Natives.”; and
- WHEREAS:** Neither the State nor the Secretary acted to protect the subsistence needs of Alaska Natives, so Congress enacted the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (“ANILCA”) with a subsistence preference for rural residents; and
- WHEREAS:** The State Supreme Court found the rural preference violated the Alaska Constitution’s equal access clause, so now subsistence in Alaska is managed by the federal government on federal land, and by the state government on state and private land resulting in a patchwork of regulations across the state; and
- WHEREAS:** Large areas of the state have been classified as “non-subsistence use areas,” where subsistence users receive no priority and “all Alaskans” have been declared eligible for the subsistence priority on all remaining state and private lands; and
- WHEREAS:** Subsistence harvests have been marginalized, both by competing users of fish and game and by ineffective and irreconcilable federal and state management regimes; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives would like to gather and clarify changes we would like to see made in subsistence laws, regulations and management so that we can advocate for those changes with the state and federal governments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives will conduct hearings around the state to gather issues and suggested changes to subsistence laws, regulations and management

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

SUBMITTED BY:	ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	PASS





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-40

- TITLE:** PROMOTING TRIBALLY-OPERATED SCHOOLS AND CULTURALLY-APPROPRIATE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH BY RE-ESTABLISHING BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE) FUNDING IN ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 tribes and communities have strong interests in improving the education for Alaska Native Youth; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States has recognized the expression of Alaska Natives for self-determination in legislation, such as Public Law 93-638, assuring the maximum Alaska Native and Indian participation in the direction of educational services to render those services more responsive to the needs and desires of those communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States has declared its commitment to the maintenance of the federal government's unique and continuing trust responsibility to Indian tribes through the establishment of the Indian Self-Determination Policy and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribally-operated schools in the State of Alaska have sought to enter into Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to carry out educational programs that meet the needs and desires of their tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Executive and Legislative Branches of the United States Government have proposed, enacted and implemented appropriations legislation preventing any BIE funding to be used for tribal schools in the State of Alaska specifically in the appropriations language which is proposed to be continued under the FY 2014 budget proposal and this places limitations on which schools are eligible for BIE

funds to prevent BIE funding from being used for tribal schools in Alaska. The language states:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau [of Indian Education], other than the amounts provided herein for assistance to public schools under 25 U.S.C. 452 et seq. [Johnson O'Malley], shall be available to support the operation of any elementary or secondary school in the State of Alaska.”  
(FY14 Indian Affairs Budget Justification, pages IA-PROV-1 and IA-PROV-2)

WHEREAS: This discriminatory practice of denying Alaska Natives the opportunity to carry out tribally-directed education programs that are authorized in the Lower 48 States is contrary to the trust responsibility of the United States to all its indigenous peoples.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Obama Administration with the United States Congress to take action to ensure that BIE Program Funding is made available to Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations on the same terms it is made available in the rest of 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: NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.  
2013 AFN CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 13-41

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND/OR ENHANCEMENT OF FULLY-FUNCTIONING TRIBAL COURTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and 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 Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and.
- WHEREAS:** Fully functioning Tribal Courts struggle to exist in the rural Alaska when funding is not obtained for operation; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal Justice Department exist in some regions to provide technical assistance to Tribal Courts to plan, enhance, and implement Tribal Courts and to provide technical assistance in their pursuit of funding for operation; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tribal Courts within the Alaska exist on a variety of degrees and levels of functionality, and some Tribes have no Tribal courts; and
- WHEREAS:** There is a need to have fully-trained Tribal Judges and Court Clerks in all tribal villages where tribal courts are desired; and
- WHEREAS:** In most of rural Alaska, Tribal ordinances are not enforced due to a lack of tribal law enforcement officers; and
- WEHREAS:** The Tribal and local ordinances often do not accommodate each other, resulting in an efficient enforcement and judicial system.
- WHEREAS:** the State of Alaska continues to disagree with tribal court authority to protect its tribal member children, most recently in the *Parks v. Simmonds* case in which the State of Alaska has taken the side of an attempted murderer rather than the Minto tribal court.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives in coordination with the Alaska Tribal Judges Association assist in researching and seeking multi-year, multi-million dollar grants to provide planning and development services for Alaska's tribes to ensure that tribes desiring tribal courts have adequate funding to operate a fully functioning tribal court system

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives and Alaska Tribal Judges Association work with Alaska's tribes to ensure the efficient enforcement of all tribal and municipal ordinances and the Tribal Courts are the local judicial systems

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if the State of Alaska and Governor wish to cooperate with Alaska Native tribes and tribal courts, the first step is to agree that tribal courts should take the necessary tribal court action to protect tribal member children, which could open possibilities for adequately funding tribal courts

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

SUBMITTED BY:	ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE ACTION:	DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:	AMENDED AND PASSED



## Report on AFN Subsistence Advocacy – 2012-2013

At the 2012 Annual Convention, AFN committed to the long-term goal of achieving full and lasting federal protections for the Alaska Native hunting, fishing and gathering way of life, and a co-equal role in the management of fish, wildlife and other renewable resources that form the basis for our economic and cultural existence. As a first step to achieving these goals, AFN adopted an Action Plan which incorporated feedback and recommendations gathered from the floor of the 2012 Tribal Conference held immediately prior to the 2012 Annual Convention, recommendations from delegates who attended the Subsistence Workshop during the Convention and from the Subsistence Resolutions passed at the Convention.

The long-term goal is to have legislation introduced and passed by Congress that will provide for a Native/Tribal priority, and a co-equal role in the management of subsistence uses. In the interim, AFN has taken every opportunity to encourage the Administration to take certain administrative actions that would cost little or nothing and which would not require federal legislation but which would improve the federal subsistence management system in Alaska. Summarized below are some of the key steps AFN has taken to implement the Subsistence Work Plan since the 2012 AFN Convention.

**Congress:** AFN was able to obtain an oversight hearing on September 19, 2013, in the **Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources** to address subsistence management issues in Alaska. Senator Murkowski also facilitated a **Roundtable Discussion** between Native leaders who were in Washington, DC for the hearing, and those witnesses and officials from the State of Alaska and the federal agencies, to explore areas where we might find common ground. Leading up to the official Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, Senator Murkowski held **Listening Sessions** in Bethel in April and Copper Center in May, 2013.

The **Senate Committee on Indian Affairs** will be holding a **field hearing and Open Forum on Saturday afternoon, October 26, 2013**, during the AFN Convention in Fairbanks on Food Security and Viability of Alaska Native Villages. Invited witnesses include Heather Kendall-Miller, Mary Pete, Marie Green, Evon Peter, Melanie Bahnke, Rob Sanderson and Nelson Kanuk. The public is invited to participate in the Open Forum following the formal hearing.

**Legislative Proposals:** AFN's legal team has prepared legal briefings and an options paper that sets out the options for obtaining legal protections for Native hunting and fishing and gathering. The options include repeal of ANCSA §4(b)'s extinguishment of aboriginal hunting and fishing rights and replacing it with new legislation that could take the form of amendments to ANILCA, or amendments to ANCSA, or a combination. The Subsistence Committee is recommending sending a team from AFN to regional meetings early next year to explain the various options available in terms of ANCSA/ANILCA amendments and to finalize our legislative approach at either a Special Convention or at the 2014 Annual Convention.

**Demonstration Projects:** AFN is also working with AVCP and TCC, as well as the Ahtna tribes to advance several demonstration projects. The AVCP/TCC proposal would create Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions for the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and require the Secretary to enter into cooperative and funding agreements with these Commissions for the conservation and management of fishery resources in both river drainages. The Ahtna demonstration project would allow the tribes in the region to manage wildlife on Ahtna and other Native-owned lands, and create a Federal/State/tribal co-management structure. **The demonstration projects were highlighted in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Hearing in DC**, and legislative language has been sent to the Alaska congressional delegation and to the State of Alaska.

**High Level Briefings/Meetings:** Throughout the year, AFN leadership has met not only with the Alaska congressional delegation on numerous occasions, but other key members of Congress, the White House, and **Secretary Sally Jewell** to brief them on the importance of subsistence and the need for the Administration to

move forward with actions that the President or the agencies can take that would not require significant funding or legislation but which would greatly improve the current federal management of our fish and game. AFN met with **Senator Cantwell, Chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee**, during her visit to Alaska in early August. President Kitka also testified before the **Commission on Indian Trust Administration & Reform** on August 19, 2013, and among other things, spoke directly to the need for the federal government to honor its trust responsibility to Alaska Natives by providing protection for their hunting and fishing way of life. AFN also met with **Governor Parnell** in late September and encouraged him to support AFN's two demonstration projects.

**Administrative, Regulatory and Policy Changes that could be taken without significant funding or legislation.** AFN has called upon the President and the Secretary of the Interior to take the following administrative actions:

- Change the structure of the Federal Subsistence Board to replace federal officials with subsistence users
- Expand the scope of federal jurisdiction to include waters upstream and downstream from federal lands and Native allotments
- Require deference to the RACs on rural and C&T determinations
- Change the process by which the FSB makes its C&T and rural determinations
- Suspend and eventually revoke the regulation requiring the review of all rural/nonrural determinations every 10 years
- Reinstate the rural status of the Native Village of Saxman
- Place OSM under the Secretary's Office instead of under FWS
- Utilize tribal compacting and contracting, as well as Section 809 cooperative agreements with Alaska's tribes to manage significant aspects of the federal subsistence program, including for research and management of the Regional Advisory Councils.

AFN has advocated on many other issues that impact our hunting and fishing way of life, including the following:

1. AFN joined the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council in urging the introduction and passage of legislation that would allow the **use of bird parts in Native Art, clothing and handicrafts**. On September 17, Congressman Young introduced **H.R. 3109**, which would amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to exempt Native Handicrafts from the prohibitions against the sale of items containing nonedible migratory bird parts.
2. AFN filed extensive comments opposing the US Fish & Wildlife Service's efforts to redefine key terms in the **Marine Mammal Protection Act**, including "**significantly altered**" as it applies to sea otters. We continue to work with the congressional delegation and the Director of Fish and Wildlife Service, Dan Ashe on this issue.
3. AFN continues to seek an exemption for Alaska Native subsistence hunters from the requirement to purchase **duck stamps**. On July 18, 2013, Senator Murkowski introduced **S.1335, the Sportsmen's Act**, which expressly exempts subsistence users from the requirement that they purchase duck stamps.
4. AFN requested the Governor and the Alaska congressional delegation declare a disaster over the **statewide Chinook salmon crash of 2012**, and to appropriate additional funding for research.
5. AFN supported efforts to obtain at least one **voting seat for a tribal representative on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council**, and urged additional funding for research on the by-catch issue.
6. AFN is fully participating in the ongoing **FSB review of the process for making rural/nonrural determinations**. Talking points were prepared and shared with regional representatives prior to the RAC and public meetings, and AFN will be filing written comments on ways in which the process can be improved.

**Litigation:** In the latest **Katie John case**, AFN continues to defend the federal regulations that extended federal subsistence jurisdiction to reserved waters in Alaska. Although the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals recently rejected the State of Alaska's challenge to the regulations, the Governor plans to ask the US Supreme Court to review that decision. Governor Parnell has hired a high-powered attorney who specializes in Supreme Court litigation to prepare its petition. AFN, along with the Secretary of the Interior, will be opposing the State's Petition.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [Heather Handyside](#), (Begich) 907-350-4846

October 17, 2013

[Julie McClain](#), (Schatz) 202-224-3934

## **Begich, Baucus, Udall, Schatz, Franken Introduce Important 'Fix' to Affordable Care Act**

### ***Bill Will Provide Clarification for Thousands of Alaska Natives / American Indians***

U.S. Sens. Mark Begich (D-AK), Max Baucus (D-MT), Tom Udall (D-NM), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Al Franken (D-MN) co-sponsored legislation today to correct an inconsistency in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which without a permanent fix could prevent health care benefits for thousands of Alaska Natives and American Indians nationwide.

The current version of the health care law contains several important provisions for Native Americans including permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. However, the health care law contains several different definitions of "Indian" which led to conflicting interpretations of eligibility for benefits and requirements for coverage. The new legislation adds new and comprehensive definitions that are outlined in the attached bill.

"I've said many times that the Affordable Care Act has flaws that need to be addressed and this is just one more way we can improve the law and ensure even more Alaskans have access to quality medical care," **said Senator Begich**. "I have heard from Alaska Tribal Health organizations for months about the urgent need to introduce legislation that will serve as a technical fix within the ACA to broaden the definition of Indian as applied to Alaska Natives. I see this bill as part of our duty to ensure that our tribes and tribal health organizations can best serve and offer health care to all of those who are intended to benefit from the Affordable Care Act, and as part of the federal government's trust responsibility to the First Peoples of this country."

"The Health disparities faced by American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians are appalling and must be addressed at every opportunity," **said Senator Schatz**. "That is why I have joined Senate colleagues in introducing this measure of vital importance to American Indians and Alaska Natives eligible for Indian Health Service programs and services. This bill will provide a number of technical corrections to clarify provisions under the Affordable Care Act to ensure that the definition of 'Indian' will be consistent with the eligibility rules of the IHS and Medicaid and moves us in the right direction. I urge Congress to act expeditiously to adopt this measure."

In Alaska, it has been estimated that up to 14,000 Alaska Native people are not enrolled in Alaska Native Corporations and also not enrolled in a tribal government. These individuals have historically been eligible for IHS benefits, and will continue to be. However the issues at stake are the IRS tax penalties for not carrying coverage, cost sharing provisions, and special enrollment periods. The proposed legislation will change the definition of Indian within the Affordable Care Act to include all Alaska Natives who are eligible to receive healthcare under existing law, which would allow the estimated 14,000 receive fair treatment under the law.

"On behalf of those served by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and most especially those who would be harmed from this unintended and narrowly interpreted oversight, we applaud Senator Begich for his proactive stewardship in sponsoring legislation which ensures that Alaska Native people will receive the intended benefits of health reform and the Affordable Care Act," said Andy Teuber, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Chairman and President.

This issue had been identified as a problem since 2010 when the legislation was enacted and released to the public. Since then the Health and Human Services Administration has issued what's known as a hardship waiver to help streamline the definition of Indian in the ACA, to avoid tax penalties for Native American's who do not carry insurance. However, regulatory statues tend to fluctuate over time and Administrative action, however helpful was not a full and permanent fix.

Additional information is available in the attached FAQ sheet.