

2022 DRAFT AFN RESOLUTIONS

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-1

TITLE: RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE TIFFANY ZULKOSKY

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Representative Tiffany Zulkosky (Yup'ik) was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska, where she currently works as the Vice President of Communications for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation; and

WHEREAS: Representative Zulkosky holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast, and a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication from Northwest University; and

WHEREAS: Representative Zulkosky was elected to the Bethel City Council at age 23, and at age 24 became the youngest Mayor in Bethel's history; and

WHEREAS: On March 9, 2018, Representative Zulkosky was sworn into the Alaska State House to represent District 38; and

WHEREAS: Representative Zulkosky is the only Alaska Native woman serving in the Alaska State Legislature and serves as Chair of the House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs and Co-Chair of the House Health & Social Services Committee; and

WHEREAS: Representative Zulkosky has sponsored the following legislation:

- HB 184, a bill codifying the Tribal Child Welfare Compact into statute, effective August 5, 2022;
- HB 123, relating to the State Recognition of Tribes, signed into law July 28, 2022;
- HB 313, the House companion bill for SB 81 (which was signed into law June 30, 2022), relating to the Village Public Safety Officer program;
- HR 10, a resolution urging Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and pass Savanna's Act, filed June 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS: Representative Zulkosky has championed funding increases for the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, state funding for ice road maintenance; and the formation of the first-ever Tribal Affairs Committee, which she also served as inaugural chair; and

WHEREAS: Representative Zulkosky can be relied upon to represent the best interests of residents in Rural Alaska and citizens of the great State of Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives extend this recognition to Representative Tiffany Zulkosky for her outstanding record of public service; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives express appreciation to Representative Tiffany Zulkosky for her advocacy on behalf of Rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

SUBSISTENCE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-2

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME SUPPORT MEASURES THAT DECREASE INTERCEPT OF CHINOOK AND CHUM SALMON IN AREA M AFFECTING THE WESTERN AND INTERIOR ALASKAN SALMON CRISIS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have stewarded their territories for over 10,000 years to ensure the health, well-being, social and cultural foundation, and spiritual existence of their peoples, as well as that of the animals, lands, and waters since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS: The continuing decline of Chinook salmon in several major systems of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK), and the decline of summer and fall chum salmon in the AYK and in portions of the North and South Peninsula (Nelson Lagoon, Port Heiden) and the Chignik region are threatening the food security of many Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS: The decline of run strength and average size of many salmon stocks is now threatening the continuing viability of those stocks into the future; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native stakeholders bear the greatest burden of loss of salmon stocks; and have not reached Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) in several systems for many years; and

WHEREAS: The South Unimak and Shumagin Islands (Area M) June fisheries harvest chinook salmon, sockeye salmon and chum salmon in a mixed stock fishery. These stocks of salmon are bound for Bristol Bay and the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, as well as other areas across the North Pacific Ocean. These salmon stocks have historically been intercepted in significant numbers along the Alaska Peninsula.

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is the management authority for the commercial fishing in Area M; and

WHEREAS: ADF&G's stock reports from May of 2022 show that the 2020, 2021, 2022 Western Alaska Chinook salmon runs have been the poorest on record. In most of Western Alaska, 2020 and 2021, chum salmon runs were the lowest on

record. This year was the smallest return to all spawning streams for Chinook and Chum despite being the first time in recorded history wherein Yukon River Fishermen were not allowed to harvest any salmon anywhere in the Yukon River Basin (US and Canada) at any time; and

WHEREAS: Despite a complete ban on fishing on the Yukon River, including for subsistence needs, no limitations have been placed on commercial fishermen in Area M, and commercial fishers are catching historically high numbers of chum salmon— upwards of 2.5 million fish; and

WHEREAS: In response to requests to limit commercial fishing, the ADF&G has repeatedly noted that there is insufficient genetic evidence from the 10-year-old Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP) study to warrant reduction of Area M commercial fishing, and that a current multi-year genetic study will not be completed until 2026; and

WHEREAS: A coalition of AYK stakeholders has continually met over the last two years to promote emergency measures to reduce the harvest of Chinook and chum salmon in Area M because there is no time to wait for further genetic studies; and

WHEREAS: The Fairbanks Advisory Committee, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and other stakeholders have submitted proposals to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) to be considered at the February 2023 BOF meeting on the South Peninsula, Area M, including proposals which would revert the Area M Salmon Management Plan to the 2001-2003 Management Plan thereby significantly reducing Area M intercept harvest of Chinook and chum salmon in the June fishery.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives to review and support Board of Fisheries proposals that significantly reduce Area M intercept harvest of Chinook and chum salmon in the June fishery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that ADF&G conduct an extensive ecosystems review of the effect of productivity of wild salmon stocks within the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands in comparison to populations of hatchery stocks, bycatch harvest rates, and Western Alaska stock escapements of Chinook, summer and fall chum, and coho salmon. And, further, to compare the reduction of average size of all wild salmon stocks, including sockeye, to the same.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, KAWERAK INC., BETHEL NATIVE CORPORATION

BOARD ACTION: NO RECOMMENDATION

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-3

- TITLE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO ADDRESS SALMON BYCATCH AND SALMON MORTALITY ISSUES IN FISHERIES OF THE BERING SEA / ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AFFECTING COASTAL WESTERN AND INTERIOR ALASKA SALMON STOCKS
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voiceof the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have stewarded their territories for over 10,000 years to ensure the health, well-being, social and cultural foundation, and spiritual existence of their peoples, as well as that of the animals, lands, and waters. Alaska Natives have been dependent on those land and water resources for subsistence survival since time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Chinook salmon runs in 2020 and 2021 were the poorest observed over the past 40 years. In 2021, the combined summer and fall Yukon River chum salmon run size was under 250,000 fish; and
- WHEREAS: The continuing decline of Chinook salmon and summer and fall chum salmon in several major systems of coastal Western Alaska, particularly the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK), have not reached Amounts Necessary for Subsistence for many years. The salmon decline is threatening the food security of many Alaska Natives, who bear the greatest burden of loss of salmon stocks; and
- WHEREAS: The decline of run strength and average size of many salmon stocks is now threatening the continuing viability of those stocks into the future making the continued loss of Chinook and chum stocks in the AYK an extreme conservation issue; and
- WHEREAS: Bycatch of prohibited species (PSC) of annually caught Chinook and chum salmon in the Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands (BSAI) federal groundfish fishery are, in part, AYK bound species. While not all bycatch are Yukon River bound, at least 50% are, and Yukon River escapement goals are not being met. Area M commercial fishers are catching historically high numbers of chum salmon, upwards of 2.5 million fish, but only 153,497 summer chum swam up the Yukon River in 2021,

compared to the 1.7 million that historically swam up the River every summer;
and

WHEREAS: Bycatch in U.S. federal waters is managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC or "Council") is the regulatory body to NOAA in the federal waters of the North Pacific; and

WHEREAS: The Council adopted Amendment 110 in 2016 which created a comprehensive salmon bycatch avoidance program. Beginning in 2019 the Council implemented further measures designed to reduce overall Chinook PSC levels for the Eastern Bering Sea pollock fishery sectors in times of low western Alaskan Chinook salmon abundance by providing increased incentives to reduce bycatch to rebuild critically low western Alaskan Chinook stocks; and

WHEREAS: There are many other ecosystem considerations that affect salmon loss, such as the concern regarding the increased abundance of hatchery fish in the North Pacific Ocean causing reduced growth of salmon in offshore areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that the NPFMC fulfill its obligations under Amendment 110 for the further reduction of Chinook and chum BSAI bycatch in times of low salmon abundance; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that the NPFMC implement further measures that increase incentives to the pollock fleet to reduce Chinook and chum bycatch; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that the NPFMC conduct extensive ecosystems review of the effect of productivity of wild salmon stocks within the BSAI in comparison to populations of hatchery stocks, bycatch harvest rates, and Western Alaska stock escapements of Chinook, summer and fall chum, and coho salmon. And, further, to compare the reduction of average size of all wild salmon stocks, including sockeye, to the same.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, KAWERAK INC.,

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-4

- TITLE: CALLING FOR SUPPORT AND INCREASED RESOURCES COMBATING THE DRUG EPIDEMIC THROUGHOUT THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY RELATIVE TO FENTANYL, OPIOIDS, HEROIN, AND METHAMPHETAMINE
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Drug trafficking, prescription drug abuse, and the abuse of fentanyl, opioids, heroin, and methamphetamine have continued to increase and plague Native communities throughout Alaska, causing massive societal, cultural, emotional, and monetary damage to Alaska Native people and their communities and causing countless injuries and deaths of many Native peoples, especially youth, from addiction, overdose, and suicide and also contributes to human trafficking among young Native men and women; and
- WHEREAS: Since the passage of the original AFN Resolution 18-4 addressing the Drug Epidemic, the devastating impact of these drugs, with the further specific and tragic impacts of fentanyl, on Alaska Native communities continues unabated; and
- WHEREAS: There continues to be a significant lack of resources allocated for education, treatment, preventative services, and public safety in Alaska Native communities to address these drug epidemics, which poses a direct threat to the Alaska Native Community, and especially to Alaska Native youth; and
- WHEREAS: Federal, state, and local governments must make critical investments to address drug addiction and overdose injuries and deaths within Alaska Native communities; and
- WHEREAS: Federal, state, and local governments and courts are vested with the primary responsibility of providing law enforcement and prosecution services regarding Alaska Native communities; and
- WHEREAS: The current structure of the drug enforcement programs are divided into regions, and resources are limited, with some Alaska Native communities having

only temporary, little, or no drug enforcement program related personnel or resources located within hundreds of miles of those communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby calls again on Alaska's state legislature and Alaska's federal congressional delegation, and all federal, state, and local governmental agencies, including but not limited to, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the Department of Justice, and Alaska's municipal and borough related agencies and governments, specifically those located in Alaska Native communities, to increase their related enforcement activities, criminal penalties, and other resources, support services, and personnel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call on all federal, state, and local government agencies to immediately further advance their education, prevention, treatment efforts, and public safety programs designed to specifically address fentanyl, opioids, heroin, and methamphetamine abuse and addiction within the Alaska Native Community.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK IÑUPIAT CORPORATION

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-5

TITLE: INCREASING ALASKA NATIVE REPRESENTATION ON THE STATE TASK FORCE FOR MARIJUANA REGULATION AND TAXATION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska allows for the retail sale of marijuana and collects an excise tax of \$50 per ounce for retail sales. In the fiscal year 2022, the State collected an estimated \$30 million in excise taxes; and

WHEREAS: The excise taxes are intended to be used in the following manner: 25% for drug treatment, 25% for marijuana education, and 25% for recidivism reduction; and

WHEREAS: Governor Dunleavy announced the formation of a task force on September 21, 2022, to consider changes to the regulation and taxation of the marijuana industry. The proposed task force will consist of 13 members, with 12 of those members coming from existing government agencies or the marijuana industry and 1 public seat; and

WHEREAS: Historically, the Alaska Native community has disproportionately felt the health impacts associated with marijuana use while having limited access to health resources and little input into the process for distributing tax receipts collected from the marijuana industry; and

WHEREAS: There is a clear need across Alaska for more resources that address health impacts in Alaska Native communities, especially for services that are culturally competent and focused on serving Alaska Native youth; and

WHEREAS: The most effective way to gain perspective and respond to the needs of the Alaska Native community is to include representatives from the Alaska Native community in the decision-making process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives advocate for the governor to expand the task force to include seats for representatives from Alaska tribal governments and the tribal health system.

SUBMITTED BY: ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-6

- TITLE: STILL SEEKING JUSTICE FOR THE FAIRBANKS FOUR AND JOHN HARTMAN
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voiceof the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: On Dec. 17, 2015, Marvin Roberts, Eugene Vent, Kevin Pease and George Frese, the Alaska Native/American Indian men collectively known as the Fairbanks Four, were released from prison after being wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for 18 years; and
- WHEREAS: In exchange for immediate release from prison, the State of Alaska demanded that the Four sign away their right to sue them, the City of Fairbanks, and its police officers. If they did not sign, they faced many more months or years in jail, even if a judge agreed they had proven their innocence through the Post-Conviction Relief (PCR) hearing that precipitated their release; and
- WHEREAS: This coercive agreement has allowed injustice to continue, not only for the Four but also for John Hartman, the fifteen (15) year old who was murdered by a different group of young men in 1997; and
- WHEREAS: One of the true perpetrators of the murder, William Holmes, voluntarily made a written confession that was sent to the State of Alaska’s Fairbanks District Attorney’s (DA) Office and to the Fairbanks Police Department; and
- WHEREAS: Neither the Fairbanks DA’s office nor the Fairbanks Police Department did anything with the confession, with FPD putting it away in a drawer for years; and
- WHEREAS: The Holmes confession was only revealed during legal discovery in the PCR hearing; and
- WHEREAS: To date, there has been no acknowledgment of any investigation into the Holmes confession or any subsequent charges; and
- WHEREAS: No one in an official capacity has taken responsibility for the injustice done in this case, nor has anyone in an official capacity acknowledged or apologized to the Four for the 18 years lost behind bars, nor have the Four been compensated for their wrongful incarcerations; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has yet to provide them their rightful Permanent Fund dividends for the years they were wrongfully incarcerated; and

WHEREAS: The Four had to undertake a lawsuit, Roberts v. City of Fairbanks, to hold the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Police Department accountable, and

WHEREAS: The City of Fairbanks and the police officers named in the lawsuit are fighting to dismiss the case instead of working to make systemic change; and

WHEREAS: The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit opinion, issued on January 22, 2020, allowed the Fairbanks Four to continue their lawsuit against the City of Fairbanks. The opinion included key testimony given at the post-conviction relief hearing held in 2015:

- *William Holmes testified that he, Jason Wallace, and three other men had murdered Hartman;*
- *Eleven witnesses corroborated Holmes' account;*
- *Four witnesses testified that Wallace had confessed to killing Hartman and provided consistent, interlocking accounts corroborating that fact;*
- *An Alaska State Trooper testified that an investigation corroborated key elements of Holmes' confession and failed to find any evidence of Plaintiff's guilt;*
- *Alibi witnesses provided accounts of the activities and whereabouts of the Plaintiffs on the night of the murder, establishing that Plaintiffs were never together that night and could not have murdered Hartman...*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon the State of Alaska and the City of Fairbanks to make appropriate reparation to Marvin Roberts, Eugene Vent, Kevin Pease, and George Frese for their mishandling of cases and wrongful convictions of the Four; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon the State of Alaska and the City of Fairbanks to investigate the Holmes confession and take appropriate action and provide a report to the public to create transparency in its handling of the case; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Alaska Governor and the City of Fairbanks mayor be requested to address the 2023 AFN Convention with a report on what systemic change has been made to ensure cases such as the Fairbanks Four do not happen again to Alaska Native people.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-7

TITLE: CALLING FOR ANNUAL, NON-COMPETITIVE, BASE TRIBAL JUSTICE FUNDING FOR PL-280 TRIBES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The public safety crisis in rural Alaska continues, with some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual violence, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People cases in the Nation; and

WHEREAS: In PL-280 States, such as Alaska, tribes do not receive Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) base funding for Public Safety and Justice (PSJ) programs; and

WHEREAS: State law enforcement is largely absent in Alaska Native Villages, except for the most serious felonies; and

WHEREAS: Alaska’s tribal governments are on the front lines of protecting tribal communities in rural Alaska, but public safety and tribal justice infrastructure in Alaska has been under-funded, or unfunded, for decades; and

WHEREAS: Alaska tribes have no sustained source of funding to recruit, hire, train, and retain officers; provide adequate equipment and supplies; or construct, renovate, or maintain public safety buildings, holding cells, or tribal courts; and

WHEREAS: Alaska tribes are forced to fund their tribal safety and justice services through short-term/cyclical competitive grants, corporation donations, and fundraising through bingo, raffles, and other means; and

WHEREAS: The highly centralized nature of the Alaska State law enforcement model and the inability to access BIA tribal law enforcement funding leaves most of our villages without full-time law enforcement and many villages without any law enforcement presence at all.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives calls for the Department of Interior to provide dedicated annual non-competitive base funding for PL-280 tribes to develop and sustain

tribal court systems, assist in the provision of public safety and related services, and assist with intergovernmental agreements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such funding should not be lower than the minimum amount identified by the 2015 BIA Report to Congress that identified the budgetary needs of tribal courts in P.L. 280 States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that BIA should expeditiously conduct an updated study to identify the budgetary needs of PL-280 tribes to provide comprehensive public safety and justice services to all tribal communities in Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-8

- TITLE: CALLING FOR THE EXPANSION OF SELF-GOVERNANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voiceof the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Tribes and tribal organizations have a proven track record of administering both federal and state-funded programs and services to their tribal members; and
- WHEREAS: Tribes and tribal organizations, through PL-638 compacts and contracts, have successfully managed federal funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide social services and the Indian Health Service to provide health services for decades; and
- WHEREAS: Compacting and contracting with tribes and tribal organizations to operate certain federal programs has been proven to reduce cost, eliminate bureaucracy, and improve service delivery; and
- WHEREAS: Tribes and tribal organizations are best positioned to and have experience in, delivering high-quality services effectively and efficiently in extremely rural America, where many tribal members live in communities with limited transportation and technology infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS: Tribes and tribal organizations stand ready to address serious challenges facing their tribal members, including Rural Alaska’s public safety crisis; and
- WHEREAS: The public safety crisis in rural Alaska continues, with some of the highest rates of domestic violence, sexual violence, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People cases in the Nation; and
- WHEREAS: State law enforcement is largely absent in Alaska Native Villages, except for the most serious felonies; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska’s tribal governments are on the front lines of protecting tribal communities in rural Alaska, but public safety and tribal justice infrastructure in

Alaska has been under-funded, or unfunded, for decades; and

WHEREAS: Alaska tribes have no sustained source of funding to recruit, hire, train, and retain officers; provide adequate equipment and supplies; or construct, renovate, or maintain public safety buildings, holding cells, or tribal courts; and

WHEREAS: Alaska tribes are forced to fund their tribal safety and justice services through short-term/cyclical competitive grants, corporation donations, and fundraising through bingo, raffles, and other means.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call for the Department of Justice to identify the necessary steps to obtain the authority to compact/contract with Tribes and to work with Congress to implement this change.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call for the Alaska Congressional Delegation to support legislation expanding self-governance to the Department of Justice.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-9

- TITLE: LACK OF VETERINARY CARE IS AN UNMET PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN ALASKA
NATIVE COMMUNITIES CALL TO HAVE VETERINARY SERVICE BE INCLUDED
UNDER INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE PURVIEW
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: The lack of access to veterinary care is an ongoing public health crisis in Alaska Native communities, severely impacting the quality of life for residents; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native children have the highest incidence of hospitalization for dog bites in the Indian Health Service system; and
- WHEREAS: Stray dogs carry zoonotic diseases and parasites, creating health and sanitation risks yet, culling stray diseased or dangerous dogs is mentally traumatizing to people living in the communities; and
- WHEREAS: Western and northern Alaska live under constant threat of rabies; and
- WHEREAS: Increasing access to basic veterinary care is the only way to control these human health disparities; and
- WHEREAS: Particularly in Indigenous communities, veterinary health care is public health care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby request Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services to declare veterinary health care in Native communities an unmet health care need and under the purview of the Indian Health Service.

SUBMITTED BY: NENANA NATIVE COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

EDUCATION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-10

- TITLE: Establishment of an Office of Native Education within the State Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voiceof the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Tribes would like to see even better educational outcomes for our students, including proficiency in our Native languages, higher graduation rates and test scores; and
- WHEREAS: AFN has offered continued support for tribal compacting for education; and
- WHEREAS: A dedicated working group within AFN to specifically address the Alaska Native community’s unique needs and concerns regarding tribal compacting with the State Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) does not currently exist; and
- WHEREAS: A dedicated office within DEED to specifically address the Alaska Native community’s unique needs and concerns regarding education does not currently exist; and
- WHEREAS: DEED should work with Tribes via government-to-government consultation to adopt appropriate regulations for State-Tribal Education Compact Schools, including an alternate minimum school size; and
- WHEREAS: The State Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 34, which gives Tribes the opportunity to voluntarily apply to establish a State-Tribal Education Compact School. State-Tribal Education Compact Schools are intended to give Tribes a unique opportunity to improve educational outcomes for Alaska Native students; and
- WHEREAS: Tribes need guidance, technical assistance, consultation, and resources to best implement tribal compacting demonstration projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that the Alaska Department of Education

and Early Development establish an Office of Native Education to assist school districts and tribes in meeting the educational needs of Alaska Native students, and to serve as a liaison between the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and school districts, tribal governments, tribal schools, State-Tribal Education Compact Schools, parents/guardians of Alaska Native children, and Alaska Native communities.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention request the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to establish a Tribal Compacting Working Group to assist tribes in meeting the educational needs of their members in coordination with the Alaska Federation of Natives.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

LAND, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-11

TITLE: CALLING FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON LANDS IN WHICH THE MILITARY OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES HAVE LEFT OR ABANDONED DEBRIS, INFRASTRUCTURE, OTHER WASTE, AND CONTAMINATION THROUGHOUT RURAL ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: AFN passed Resolutions 15-23 and 18-17, Holding the Department of Defense and State and federal regulatory agencies responsible, accountable and requesting the long overdue clean-up of formerly and currently used defense sites in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. military and other governmental agencies, over a period of decades, have left infrastructure, debris, wastes, and contamination that still litter and contaminate large areas of Alaska Native Corporations (ANC) and tribal lands; and

WHEREAS: The remnants and contaminants the military and these agencies have left behind above ground and buried underground in rural Alaska are a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of nearby communities; and

WHEREAS: Since the passage of the original AFN Resolutions 15-23 and 18-17 addressing the harmful levels of contaminants and litter left behind by the military and other agencies and the damages caused to the surrounding environment and in the bodies of Alaska Native peoples and to Alaska Native communities continues unabated; and

WHEREAS: While some of the armed forces have agreed to test and remediate lands and water sources with ANCs and Tribal Governments, much of the testing and remediation work has not commenced or been completed to date.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives calls again on Alaska's state legislature and Alaska's federal congressional delegation, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, and the state of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure swift and complete cleanup and adequate funding of formerly and currently used defense sites, and other agency sites, located in Alaska and to restore those sites as near as possible to original conditions in order to protect the lands, waters, subsistence resources, and health of the Alaska Native peoples and all Alaskans, including future generations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges giving contractual and hiring preference to ANCs and Tribes for cleanup, remediation and other related work, identifying and addressing the remediation and restoration of those native organizations' lands and communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that meetings with ANCs and Tribes be held to determine the best course of action to identify, address, and remove the materials and contamination left behind in Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK IÑUPIAT CORPORATION
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-12

TITLE: PRIORITIZING GOVERNMENTAL MITIGATION EFFORTS FOR EROSION AND FLOODING IN OR AROUND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: AFN previously passed Resolutions: 15-24 urging the state and federal governments to act to address and mitigate climate change and its impacts on Alaska communities to ensure community resiliency and adaptation; 16-22 requesting the State of Alaska Governors Tribal Advisory Committee address the effects of erosion due to climate change on Alaska Native Lands; 17-22 developing a stronger state action plan for flooding and erosion; 20-20 seeking increased coordination, technical assistance and funding for Alaska Native communities to respond to environmental threats; and

WHEREAS: Climate change impacts and the issues of erosion, flooding, and other environmental threats addressed by these previous resolutions are all still relevant points for advocacy today, especially as Alaska continue to warm faster than the global average and erosion and flooding affecting Alaska communities is getting worse every year; and

WHEREAS: The recent 2022 Typhoon Merbok, which has devastated Alaska Native communities across Western Alaska, is just one example of climate change impacting the State and requiring immediate, dedicated emergency resources and action in order to address threats to life, health, education, and safety; and

WHEREAS: These efforts are especially needed and unique in Alaska due to the shorter seasons and before the colder weather and freezing of community homes and other places with the quickly approaching winter; and

WHEREAS: All these impacts are threatening community infrastructure and sustainability, with families being displaced, the loss of many ancestral lands and community health, safety, livelihoods, lands, waters, fish, wildlife, and the unique culture of Alaska Native communities all being adversely and severely impacted; and

WHEREAS: While some communities and governmental agency support have been able to help mitigate some of these impacts, there continues to be a significant lack of resources and support allocated to address climate change impacts and threats related to Alaska's Native communities; and

WHEREAS: The current and existing programs and services provided are not sufficient to adequately meet the need of Native residents and tribal members across the State of Alaska, especially considering Alaska's remoteness and extreme winter environments and the need for immediate, emergency resources in order to survive those impacts; and

WHEREAS: Federal, state, and local governments must continue to increase and make critical investments to address climate change and its impacts on the Alaska Native community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge Alaska's state legislature and Alaska's federal congressional delegation, and all of the state and federal agencies involved in addressing the impacts of climate change, flooding, and erosion, including the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and NOAA to work with AFN and its member communities to continue the work on addressing climate change impacts endangered Alaska Native communities and to support increased and dedicated funding addressing those impacts.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK IÑUPIAT CORPORATION

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-13

TITLE: ESTABLISHING AN INTERAGENCY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING ENTITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: the Government Accountability Office in Report 22-104241 states the following:

“Congress should consider establishing an interagency and intergovernmental coordinating entity and requiring the relevant agencies to participate and engage in sustained coordination to strategically target federal investments to Alaska Native villages facing significant environmental threats. Congress should also consider directing the coordinating entity and its participating agencies to identify opportunities to streamline program delivery across federal agencies; assess the statutory program characteristics we identified that pose obstacles to Alaska Native villages' obtaining assistance, and identify any others; and submit a report to Congress with any recommendations for statutory changes to streamline program delivery and to address such obstacles.”; and

Whereas: Tribal communities throughout the United States are experiencing climate threats such as flooding, erosion, permafrost degradation, ocean acidification, increased wildfires, extended drought, and changes in seasons that have put our homelands and our ways of life in jeopardy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives recommend that Congress establishes an interagency and intergovernmental coordinating entity for all Tribal communities in the United States facing climate and environmental threats, as recommended in GAO Report 22-104241.

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-14

- TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO STOP THE STATE OF ALASKA FROM TAKING ALASKA NATIVE LAND UNDER RS 2477
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voiceof the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Revised Statute 2477, Section 8 of the Mining Act of 1866 (“RS 2477”) is an obscure Civil War era mining statute that granted rights-of-way (“ROWs”) across unreserved federal lands throughout the United States, including Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: RS 2477 grants are self-executing, meaning a ROW automatically comes into existence if a public trail, road or highway was used or constructed across public land in accordance with state law; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has pursued an aggressive campaign to research, identify, and assert title to RS 2477 ROWs throughout the State; and
- WHEREAS: The RS 2477 ROWs crisscross lands owned by the Alaska Native Corporations (“ANC”) and private individuals; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has a full-time attorney and staff dedicated to asserting RS 2477 ROWs across the state and, at last count, claimed 669 distinct RS 2477 trails; and
- WHEREAS: In general, RS 2477 ROWs are 100 feet wide, and the state claims the right to relocate the ROWs as necessary if natural conditions make the route impassable or unsafe; and
- WHEREAS: The state also claims the right to enter property to perform maintenance and repair work, such as paving, leveling, grading, installing culverts and riprap, maintaining drainage ditches, clearing vegetation, and realigning the road; and
- WHEREAS: The state contends that the public has extensive use rights within the ROW that include not only transportation, but also rest stops, pullouts, boat launches, picnic areas, fishing access, camping, and recreation; and

WHEREAS: The state has aggressively asserted its claimed rights by clearing ANC land and damaging ANC property; and

WHEREAS: By asserting claims to RS 2477 ROWs, the state promotes third-party trespass on ANC land; and

WHEREAS: Ahtna, Incorporated has vigorously fought the state in the courts to prevent the state's taking of Native land through RS 2477; and

WHEREAS: Despite Ahtna, Incorporated's significant efforts, legal challenges have failed to prevent the state's overreach; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives received only a small portion of their traditional and historic lands in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act ("ANCSA"); and

WHEREAS: The lands that ANCs received under ANCSA are of vital importance for the continuation of the customary and traditional way of life for Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives refuse to give up any more land to the State of Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives stand together and are unified in our efforts to protect the lands of Alaska Native people and intend to work together to prevent additional land takings by the State of Alaska through RS 2477; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives are committed to working with the U.S. Congress, the White House, and federal agencies, and the Alaska State Legislature to prevent the taking of land through RS 2477.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA, INCORPORATED, BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION, COOK INLET REGION, INC., KONIAG, INC

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-15

- TITLE: IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GRID RESILIENCE FORMULA GRANTS FOR INDIAN TRIBES
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: In November of 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law by President Biden. This legislation creates an unprecedented and generational investment in American Infrastructure, from broadband to roads and bridges to electrical generation and transmission infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS: Section 40101(j) of the IIJA allocates 12 million dollars per year to the Alaska Energy Authority for Alaskan electrical infrastructure, but the subgrant is written to apply mainly to the railbelt electrical system and will likely exclude Rural and Tribal communities from receiving any benefit from the funds; and
- WHEREAS: Each tribe will have the same requirements placed upon it as the individual States, but most small tribes will only receive \$60,000/yr. for the 5-year period; and
- WHEREAS: Although rural Alaska needs this infrastructure for rural electric systems, many small tribal staff are unequipped to manage the heavy reporting and application requirements of the program. Unless the formula and the requirements for tribes to utilize the program are changed, the state of Alaska risks missing out on the \$88M allocated toward Alaskan tribes over the next 5 years.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request the Department of Energy allow Tribes, via Resolution, to designate a lead agency that will act on behalf of the Tribe for purposes of this award; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request the Department of Energy allows tribes that are expected to receive less than \$250,000 annually from this program to submit one complete work plan for the 5-year cycle with annual reporting requirements.
- SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-16

TITLE: CALLING FOR FUNDING TO SUPPORT VILLAGES IMPACTED BY TYPHOON MERBOK AND PREPARE FOR FUTURE DISASTERS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to promote an understanding of the economic needs of Alaska Natives and encourage development consistent with those needs; and

WHEREAS: Alaska tribes are in a State of Emergency due to environmental threats from climate changes resulting in storms, and floods – such as the recent Typhoon Merbok; and

WHEREAS: Our communities are facing extremely aggressive erosion, storms, flooding, and permafrost thaw, which impact community infrastructure and livelihoods. Consequently, communities are retreating and relocating to new, safe sites. Families are being displaced from their homes due to collapsing ground, permafrost sinkholes, and floodwaters that inundate homes. Schools large and small are threatened, jeopardizing essential education and early childhood development services; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives has passed Resolution 20-20, “Increased Coordination, Technical Assistance and Funding for Native Communities to Respond to Environmental Threats”, which calls for increasing the availability and amounts of federal funding available for tribes to prepare for and remediate environmental threats.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call for the State and Federal governments to assess the infrastructure needs of villages impacted by Typhoon Merbok; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call for the Alaska Congressional Delegation to introduce legislation to address the funding needs of villages impacted by Typhoon Merbok that are not met through current State and Federal disaster efforts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that efforts continue to fully implement the recommendations in AFN Resolution 20-20.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS, KAWERAK INC.
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ECONOMIC

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-17

- TITLE: INCREASING BROADBAND ACCESS AND RELIABILITY FOR HEALTH, SAFETY, EDUCATION, BUSINESS, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was passed by Congress, which provides for significant infrastructure support and funding, including for broadband development, across the United States; and
- WHEREAS: Internet connectivity and broadband access and infrastructure provide a critical link facilitating the delivery of essential health, life, safety, education, business, entertainment, and other local community needs in remote and rural areas of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska's large size, varied terrain, harsh climate, isolated populations, and lack of infrastructure are well-known challenges to providing internet connectivity and reliable broadband access and infrastructure needed in Alaska Native communities, which challenges can translate into unreliable or no broadband service and high consumer costs; and
- WHEREAS: Internet connectivity and broadband access is now mission critical to delivering and addressing healthcare, safety, education, business, and community development needs in these communities; and
- WHEREAS: Numerous Alaska Native community residents and tribal members have expressed grave concerns regarding the availability, quality, and reliability of the current internet connectivity and broadband access; and
- WHEREAS: There continues to be a significant lack of resources and support allocated for internet connectivity and broadband access to address these needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call on Alaska’s state legislature and Alaska’s federal congressional delegation, and all federal, state, and local government agencies, to advocate for increased support and infrastructure funding for reliable high-speed Broadband communication throughout Alaska for health, safety, education, business, and community development needs.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAĠVIK IÑUPIAT CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-18

TITLE: PRIORITIZING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS THROUGHOUT ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Road development, construction, and maintenance is a critical infrastructure need and provide essential services throughout Alaska and especially to Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS: These essential services include transportation for: medical and emergency services, job opportunities, school and educational purposes, cultural activities, community, economic and business development; and,

WHEREAS: There are also ongoing and continuing needs for meaningful opportunities for work and job force development throughout Alaska and especially in Alaska Native communities that can be partially addressed by giving preference to ANCs, Tribes, and local Alaska hire for construction work, maintenance, and other related work, especially when addressing access to resources and ANC/Tribal lands and communities; and

WHEREAS: On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was passed by Congress, which provides for the modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, airports, broadband, and drinking water and wastewater infrastructure across the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urges Alaska’s state legislature and Alaska’s federal congressional delegation, and all of the state and federal agencies involved in transportation planning and development, including the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Department of Interior, and the Department of the Transportation, to facilitate funding by cooperative agreements, contracts, or grants effort and to dedicate infrastructure support and funds for roads and other transportation corridor improvements and development throughout Alaska and especially when addressing access to

resources or to ANC/Tribal lands and communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge preference to ANCs, Tribes, and local Alaska hire for construction work, maintenance, and other related work, especially when addressing access to resources and to ANC/Tribal lands and communities.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAĠVIK IÑUPIAT CORPORATION
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ANSCA/TRIBAL

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-19

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IMPLORING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO END ITS PRACTICE OF REQUIRING TRIBAL WAIVERS OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY AS A CONDITION FOR RECEIVING GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Tribes are required by the State of Alaska to waive their sovereign immunity from unconsented suit when entering into agreements to receive grant funds that address certain health and social services needs of Tribal/AN/AI community members, such as for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), tobacco cessation and other services; and

WHEREAS: Many of these State grants are pass-through funds that originate from Federal awards, and the Federal government does not require these same sovereign immunity waivers from any of the 229 Federally recognized Tribes in Alaska as a condition to receive funding, including for the program funds passed through the State of Alaska to beneficiary Tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives implore the State of Alaska to end its practice of requiring Tribal waivers of sovereign immunity as a condition for receiving grant funds.

SUBMITTED BY: KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-20

TITLE: SMALL AND NEEDY TRIBES REPORT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The Bureau of Indian Affairs' ("BIA") Small Tribes Supplement Program, also known as the "Small and Needy Tribes" Program, provides a minimum base level by which eligible small tribes can run viable tribal governments; and

WHEREAS: The Small Tribes Supplement Program ("Program") was created in 1993 to support self-governance by fostering stable tribal governments able to exercise their authority as sovereign nations; and

WHEREAS: Historically, the Program provided a base value for eligible tribes to operate core government functions, including, but not limited to, administrative and finance operations; and

WHEREAS: This recurring base is necessary as small tribal governments often lack the ability to raise financial resources through conventional means yet must meet the minimum governmental capacity required to develop their respective communities; and

WHEREAS: In recent years, due to unreported changes made within BIA's algorithm, several Alaska Tribes have been underpaid and/or have not received their minimum base funding amounts, and due to the lack of transparency in BIA's distribution systems and lack of BIA response to tribal appeals, questions remain unanswered.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that the Senate Appropriations Committee request a report from the Bureau of Indian Affairs on any programmatic changes that impact the distribution methodology, and the real value of those changes have on eligible tribal governments. Further, the report should require that these distributions be published in the annual Budget Justification, like the Tribal Priority Allocation.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-21

- TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE ALASKA NATIVE ACCESS TO FEDERAL PROGRAMS, FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, AND CONSULTATION
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska’s unique model of indigenous self-determination involves a constellation of state and federally recognized tribes, tribal consortia, village and regional corporations, and Native nonprofits (hereafter Alaska Native entities) that work together to serve, represent and advance the interests of Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native tribes are sovereign governments with inherent rights; and
- WHEREAS: Tribal consortia, village and regional corporations, and certain Native nonprofits provide land stewardship, critical services, and benefits to Alaska Native people and have special status under state and federal law to support them in providing such services and benefits; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native people understand the importance of building unity through diversity and of creating spaces where diverse opinions, experiences, and people contribute to stronger decisions; and
- WHEREAS: Embracing unity without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation has allowed Alaska Native people to find common ground with each other, build trust between ourselves, and create opportunities for our Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS: When Alaska Native entities are excluded from federal programs, funding opportunities, and consultations, Alaska Native people lose access to federal benefits, food sovereignty/subsistence, cultural, educational, and professional opportunities that we were promised in federal law, and lose control over decisions being made on the 44 million acres of ancestral lands that we still own through our village and regional corporations; and
- WHEREAS: The right of Alaska Native people to participate in federal programs, funding

opportunities, and consultations has been established by federal law, policy, regulation, executive order and has been reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court multiple times; and

WHEREAS: The definition of “Indian Tribe” in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (ISDEAA) is often used by Congress in federal law to ensure the full participation of Alaska Native people, through our Alaska Native entities, in federal programs and funding opportunities, including critical housing programs under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA), social and health programs; and

WHEREAS: During the National Congress of American Indians mid-year conference in Anchorage, Alaska in 2022, resolution ANC-22-003 “Support for Closely Monitoring Legislation Involving Definitions of “Indian Tribes” in Light of *Yellen v. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation*” was considered in an attempt to limit the inclusion of our Alaska Native entities in federal legislation going forward.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives stand together and are unified in our efforts to protect and advance the rights of Alaska Native people, including, but not limited to, access to federal programs and funding opportunities provided through ISDEAA, NAHASDA, and many other federal laws, and also to consultation per E.O. 13175 and P.L. 108-199; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the United States government, National Congress of American Indians, and other Tribal entities to respect Alaska’s unique model of indigenous self-determination that provides critical services to our Alaska Native people that were promised by the federal government, just as Alaska Native people respect the right of the Lower 48 Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations to determine their own models of indigenous self-governance; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives are committed to working with the U.S. Congress, the White House, and federal agencies to protect and advance the access of Alaska Native people to all federal programs, funding opportunities, and consultation rights that the federal government has promised us in federal laws.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA INC., INCORPORATED, BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION, CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION, COOK INLET REGION, INC., KONIAG, INC., LEISNOI, INC., OLD HARBOR NATIVE CORPORATION, TANGIRNAQ NATIVE VILLAGE, THE EYAK CORPORATION

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

OTHER

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-22

TITLE: DEFEND ALASKA’S STATE CONSTITUTION AND NATIVE RIGHTS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The state Legislature may call a constitutional convention at any time, and if one has not been called in 10 years, the Lt. Governor is required to put before voters the ballot question: “Shall there be a constitutional convention?” The question will appear on the November 8, 2022, ballot; and

WHEREAS: Alaska’s Constitution remains a stabilizing guide through these politically turbulent times; and

WHEREAS: A constitutional convention would be expensive and dangerous: it would open the entire Constitution for revision on a wide range of critical issues and pose risks to tribal/Alaska Native interests that are embedded in the Constitution with the likelihood of delegates with views that are antagonistic to those interests; and

WHEREAS: AFN has championed subsistence, tribal recognition, and historical correction of policy issues adverse to Native interests, such as recognition of indigenous languages as official languages of the state that policymakers have routinely exhibited opposition, and there would be a force in opposition with some delegates wishing to either abolish a subsistence priority or re-enforce subsistence rights for all citizens regardless of where they live.

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska could have the most to lose if a convention were called, as policymakers have routinely exhibited opposition towards issues such as Power Cost Equalization, the Alaska Marine Highway System, and rural education funding, and fundamental protections in place for Rural Alaska could disappear.

WHEREAS: Alaska’s Constitution protects the Permanent Fund, which is the source of our PFDs, and reopening the Constitution at this fragile and divisive political moment may allow extremists to raid the Fund, putting our dividends at risk; and

WHEREAS: The Alaskan Independence Party is championing the constitutional convention and has drafted its proposed version of a state constitution, which is replete with numerous features that directly affect Alaska Native interests, such as the following:

Article IV: EDUCATION

The constitution maintains that education is the responsibility of the family and of the individual, and not the state. Local school districts may provide for public education, but the financing shall originate only from those who utilize the service directly or from the revenues accrued within each school district, and upon the application of the school districts, by a subsidy from the legislature.

Article VII: NATIVE ALASKANS

All native properties held under title of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 shall be valid and recognized by the state. All claims to native sovereignty within the ANCSA settlement shall be respected.

No renegotiation of sovereignty rights, between native tribes, native corporations, or other native groups, done with the consent of the Congress of the United States, shall be recognized by the state, without approval of a 2/3 vote in each chamber of the state legislature, and a concurrent referendum of the people, of at least 50%, plus one, of the total number of participating voters, as registered with the state, within the actual referendum.

The state recognizes that the definition of persons as "Alaskan native" through action by the Congress of the United States is arbitrary and tends to divide the people, and rightfully belongs to each native tribe or native group.

The state also recognizes that special privilege granted to Alaskan natives by the laws of the Congress of the United States, are only proper when conforming to the Constitution of the United States, within the limited sovereignty granted within the boundaries of native property.

The state accepts any limited sovereignty granted within treaties agreed to between the Congress of the United States and native Alaskans. However, the existence of "native corporations", unless and until renegotiated with limited sovereignty, creates division and confusion amongst Alaskans, and is arguably in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

The state will encourage the dissolution of native corporations by memorializing the Congress of the United States and will accept, as provided for in this constitution, native sovereignty with all its privileges and rights, within the recognized boundaries of ANCSA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual AFN Convention go on record as opposing the November 8, 2022, ballot calling for a constitutional convention and initiate all possible measures opposing a constitutional convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support this resolution and call for its members to vote to oppose the ballot measures.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION, SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE, TLINGIT AND HAIDA, EYAK CORPORATION

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-23

- TITLE: ENDORSING MARY PELTOLA AS CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola was sworn in to serve the remainder of Representative Don Young’s term in the U.S. House of Representatives from Alaska’s at-large congressional district on September 13, 2022; and
- WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola is seeking a full term to the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2022 general election; and
- WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola was raised in Western Alaska and has participated in the subsistence lifestyle since her early childhood; and
- WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola was elected to the State of Alaska House of Representatives representing the Bethel region and served from 1999 to 2009; and
- WHEREAS: As a member of the Alaska State Legislature, U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola served as Chair of the Bush Caucus, a nonpartisan group of representatives and senators who represent rural and off-road communities in Alaska, and worked to increase funding for rural programs; and
- WHEREAS: As a member of the Alaska State Legislature, U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola helped to pass legislation and influenced budgets that benefitted rural Alaska and her record includes support for responsible resource development with local control to increase economic opportunities in rural Alaska and throughout the state; and
- WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola has served her entire lifetime and professional career working for Alaska Natives serving as a judge on the Orutsararmiut Native Council’s tribal court; the Bethel City Council; and most recently as the executive director of the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission that advocated for the protection of salmon runs in Western Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: AFN recognizes and appreciates the long-standing commitment of U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola to the Alaska Native community and to the

State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola thoughtful approach to many issues of importance to the Alaska Native community, including support for education, health, transportation, and other programs critical to the well-being of Alaska's Native community; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola has shown her commitment to increasing the standard of living for rural and Alaska Native residents, and supporting the vibrancy of Alaska Native cultures; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola's commitment throughout her lifetime through both her legislative efforts and her service on multiple Native organizations, to the Alaska Native community, and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola has expressed her intent to uphold Congressman Young's legacy of bipartisanship and demonstrated this pledge in taking a significant step to do so in retaining Congressman Young's chief of staff as her own; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola is an active member of the House Committee on Natural Resources and has already initiated multiple actions that will benefit rural Alaska, Alaska Natives, and Alaska and that demonstrate her commitment to Alaska Natives, rural Alaska, and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of the significant military service of Alaska Natives, U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola, as one of her first actions, sponsored H.R. 8888 on September 21, 2022: To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Office of Food Security, and for other purposes; and

WHEREAS: As she began her second week on the job, U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola immediately responded to the disaster in Western Alaska and initiated efforts to urge the U.S. House to support supplemental disaster spending to help Western Alaska recover from the storm.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby express its appreciation to U.S. Representative Mary Sattler Peltola for her decision to run in the 2022 general election for the United States House of Representatives: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby endorse Mary Peltola as a candidate for the office of the United States House of Representatives.

SUBMITTED BY: Sealaska Corporation, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians Tribes of Alaska, Chugach Alaska Corporation, Bering Straits Native Corporation

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-24

TITLE: ENDORSING LISA MURKOWSKI AS CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATE

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski has a proven record of effectiveness, working across party lines, collaborating to find common ground and common-sense solutions that prioritize Alaska, always; and

WHEREAS: According to the Center for Effective Lawmaking, U.S. Senator Murkowski is the #1 most effective Republican senator on Native American and energy issues; and

WHEREAS: As vice chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, a senior member and former chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator Murkowski has leveraged her seniority to champion policies that support economic growth, protect families, and keep communities safe; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Senator Murkowski authored an extension for tribes and Alaska Native Corporations to spend Coronavirus Relief Fund resources from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Senator Murkowski authored and negotiated the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which will infuse Alaska with billions of dollars to build and upgrade bridges, roads, the marine highway system, broadband, and water and sewer systems—without worsening inflation; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Senator Murkowski authored and negotiated the bipartisan Energy Act of 2020, which updated the nation’s energy policies for the first time in 13 years. It spurs innovation across technologies critical to energy and national security, protects the environment, reduces greenhouse emissions, provides for energy storage, advanced nuclear, carbon capture, utilization and storage, carbon removal, renewable energy, critical minerals and materials, grid modernization,

and more; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Senator Murkowski was the driving force ensuring that Alaska Native Vietnam War-era veterans receive the land allotments they deserve; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Senator Murkowski ushered the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act into law, which reauthorization boosts efforts to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault, support survivors, and hold perpetrators accountable and VAWA also includes the Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Pilot program, which recognizes Alaska tribes, with the support of the federal government, can be effective partners with the State to address Alaska's rural public safety crisis; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Senator Murkowski has worked to address the longstanding crisis of missing, murdered, and trafficked Indigenous people through the passage of Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act. All three bills were signed into law and will increase the tools available to tribes and will, address intergovernmental coordination; and

WHEREAS: U.S. Senator Murkowski is co-leading legislation to establish a formal truth and healing commission to further investigate, document, and address the impacts of Indian boarding schools.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby express our appreciation to U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski for her decision to run in the 2022 general election for the United States Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby endorse Lisa Murkowski as a candidate for the office of the United States Senate.

SUBMITTED BY: CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIANS TRIBES OF ALASKA,
SEALASKA CORPORATION

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 22-25

- TITLE: SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 village corporations, 10 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiumsthat contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voiceof the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: For over 50 years, Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) has ensured fairness for all in the justice system by providing access to free civil legal help for Alaskans who cannot afford it; and WHEREAS: civil legal aid protects the livelihood, health, and safety of Alaskans and helps them to avoid eviction, illegal dismissal from employment, domestic violence, and denial of healthcare and lawful benefits;
- WHEREAS: Civil legal aid protects the livelihood, health, and safety of Alaskans and helps them to avoid eviction, illegal dismissal from employment, domestic violence, and denial of healthcare and lawful benefits; and
- WHEREAS: ALSC’s lawyers in eleven offices around the state serve a population of over 108,650 Alaskans living below 125% of the poverty threshold, including more than 31,600 Alaska Natives; and ALSC’s lawyers in twelve offices and medical-legal partnership sites embedded within tribal healthcare facilities around the state serve a population of 131,270 Alaskans living below 125% of the poverty threshold, including more than 31,504 Alaska Natives;
- WHEREAS: ALSC has been a strong ally of the Alaska Native community through landmark court cases such as *Alvarado v. State*, *Carle v. Carle*, *Aguchak v. Montgomery Ward*, *Allakaket v. Hickel*, *John v. Baker*; *State v. Native Village of Tanana*, *Simmonds v. Parks*, *Native Village of Tununak v. State of Alaska*, *State of Alaska v. Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*, *Akiakchak Native Community v. U.S. Department of the Interior*; and
- WHEREAS: Several regional nonprofits including: Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Maniilaq Association partner with ALSC to support local ALSC offices and staff in the communities of Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Nome and Kotzebue; and
- WHEREAS: Several regional for-profits have provided significant financial and in-kind support to ALSC’s regional offices: including Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, CIRI, Inc. Bering Straits Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Corporation,

Doyon, Ltd, and the Sitnasuak Native Corporation; and

WHEREAS: Several tribal governments including the Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian tribes of Alaska, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, the Nome Eskimo Community, and Orutsararmiut Native Council have also provided financial support for and partnered with ALSC; and

WHEREAS: Since 1984 when ALSC received an appropriation from the state of Alaska of \$1.2 Million to serve a population of 41,000 people eligible for ALSC's services, the number of Alaskans eligible for ALSC's help has more than doubled, yet the state's current contribution to ALSC is less than what it was 38 years ago; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for fiscal year (SFY) 2023, in the amount of \$681,600, which is far less than what is needed to assure that all Alaskans have access to equal justice and it is unclear whether this will be sustained in future fiscal years; and

WHEREAS: 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: A 2017 report by the Alaska Court System Access to Justice Committee estimates that an individual Alaskan experiences 2.1 legal issues every eighteen months and ALSC's current funding levels only stretch far enough to help about 7,315 people living in over 200 communities each year; and

WHEREAS: ALSC must turn away over half of the qualified individuals each year with critical legal needs due to its limited resources; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2022 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the Governor of Alaska to retain the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed State FY 24 budget and urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding and urge Congress to award sufficient funding to the federal Legal Services Corporation to support Alaska Legal Services Corporation's mission of providing free legal services on vital issues to low-income Alaskans.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: