



## Organized Village of Kake

P.O. Box 316

Kake, Alaska 99830-0316

Telephone 907-785-6471

Fax 907-785-4902 / [www.kake-nsn.gov](http://www.kake-nsn.gov)



(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)

December 16, 2019

Ken Tu, Interdisciplinary Team Leader  
Proposed Alaska Roadless Rulemaking  
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region  
Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff  
P.O. Box 21628  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628  
Email: [akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us](mailto:akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us)

Dear Mr. Tu,

The Organized Village of Kake (OVK) is the federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the authority of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and 1936. OVK is empowered under its Constitution and By-Laws “To aid needy citizens and to protect the general welfare and security of the village.” (see attached Constitution) One of OVK’s highest priorities is to protect the Village’s customary and traditional hunting, fishing and gathering areas and uses within the Keex’ Kwaan traditional territory<sup>1</sup> (see attached map that was submitted February 28, 2019 as a cooperating agency that the agency never attached to the DEIS released October 2019). These lands include national forest lands on Kuiu, Kupreanof, NW Prince of Wales, portions of Baranof & Admiralty Islands, as well as portions of the mainland.

“The doctrine of Trust” has been a major element in the U.S. Government’s relationship with American Indians and Tribes for more than 125 years. The U.S. Federal Government is the ‘trustee’ of tribal resources, which means the government must act with good Faith and Loyalty to promote the Best Interests of the Indians. In 1988, the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in recognition of their respective departmental responsibilities with American Indian Tribes.<sup>2</sup> The MOU focused on meeting the needs of American Indians by working in a Federal partnership to improve the delivery of services and programs. Agencies within the two departments signed additional agency level MOU’s to plan and deliver USDA programs on Indian lands. The unique “trust” relationship between the federal government and Tribal governments now meant that other Federal agencies (e.g., NRCS and USFS) also carry a responsibility to ensure that agency actions are in the best interests of Indian Tribes.

How would one know what is in the best interest of the Indians and Tribal governments? The answer lies in the “Consultation” process, a government-to-government procedure of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of Native Americans on a wide range of environmental and cultural resource management issues. Effective consultation requires Federal representatives to understand the historical circumstances of the Tribes in relationship to the U.S. Government, including past conflicts, wars, any type of treaty, agreement, declaration, or statute, that have been

<sup>1</sup> Keex’ Kwaan Traditional Use Area Map, as detailed in Goldschmidt and Haas, *Haa Aani*, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Tribal Consultation: A Guide for NRCS Employees (2009)

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143\\_021895.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143_021895.pdf)

entered into between a tribe and an agency of the U.S. government. An agency employee's unfamiliarity and insensitivity of historical circumstances might be enough to derail the important consultation process. There are number of legislative and Executive orders that provide instruction on consultation. For example, Executive Order 13175 states: "...In order to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications, to strengthen the United States government-to-government relationships with Indian Tribes, and to reduce imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian Tribes; it is hereby ordered as follows: Policies that have Tribal implications- referring to regulations, legislative comments or proposed legislation and other policy statements or actions that have substantial direct effects to one or more Indian Tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes."<sup>3</sup> Regarding Tribal Consultation, E.O. 13175 states:

**"Sec. 5. Consultation.** (a) Each agency shall have an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in the development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications. Within 30 days after the effective date of this order, the head of each agency shall designate an official with principal responsibility for the agency's implementation of this order. Within 60 days of the effective date of this order, the designated official shall submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a description of the agency's consultation process.

(b) To the extent practicable and permitted by law, **no agency shall promulgate any regulation that has tribal implications, that imposes substantial direct compliance costs on Indian tribal governments, and that is not required by statute, unless:**

**(1) funds necessary to pay the direct costs incurred by the Indian tribal government or the tribe in complying with the regulation are provided by the Federal Government; or**

**(2) the agency, prior to the formal promulgation of the regulation,**

**(A) consulted with tribal officials early in the process of developing the proposed regulation;**

**(B) in a separately identified portion of the preamble to the regulation as it is to be issued in the *Federal Register*, provides to the Director of OMB a tribal summary impact statement, which consists of a description of the extent of the agency's prior consultation with tribal officials, a summary of the nature of their concerns and the agency's position supporting the need to issue the regulation, and a statement of the extent to which the concerns of tribal officials have been met; and**

**(C) makes available to the Director of OMB any written communications submitted to the agency by tribal officials.**

(d) On issues relating to tribal self-government, tribal trust resources, or Indian tribal treaty and other rights, each agency should explore and, where appropriate, use consensual mechanisms for developing regulations, including negotiated rulemaking.

In the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process, it is clear that the legally required tribal consultation has been completely inadequate. The State of Alaska was granted \$2 million to participate as a

---

<sup>3</sup> Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000: 'Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments'  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2000/11/09/00-29003/consultation-and-coordination-with-indian-tribal-governments>

cooperating agency, while the tribal governments that participated in this capacity did not receive funds to pay the direct costs incurred (see attached OVK Invoice to USDA, USFS). Tribal officials were not consulted early in the process of developing the proposed regulation; we were notified of the rulemaking process *after* the State of Alaska's petition had been granted. We have not seen a tribal summary impact statement and we assert that our concerns have been inadequately addressed. We supported a no-action alternative and were *told* that the preferred alternative would be a full exemption. Despite creating a regulatory change for issues related to tribal trust resources, the USDA did not use 'consensual mechanisms' for developing regulations; our concerns were not heard or reflected in the AKRR DEIS, our requests for government-to-government consultation were repeatedly denied and not responded to in a prompt or timely manner.

It appears that history on the Tongass is once again repeating itself. The 1947 Record on Hearings before the Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, Eightieth Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> session, on H.R. Resolution 205<sup>4</sup>, includes (at p. 48) the initial statement of James E. Curry, counsel for Indian claimants to what has become the Tongass National Forest. There, Mr. Curry points out: "There has been a lot of discussion of all the consultation that has gone on for 25 years, I guess, but nothing has been said that anybody has been consulted excepting people in the Government. The Indians themselves have not been consulted."

As noted in OVK's letter of September 7, 2018, OVK Resolution No. 2018-24, (see attached) the USDA and USFS are once again advancing with proposals that directly harm the interests of the federally recognized Indian Nations in Southeast Alaska without adequate consultation. Secretary Perdue found time to visit Southeast Alaska during the summer of 2018 and meet with representatives of the Forest Service, State of Alaska, and timber industry.<sup>5</sup> Our attempts this year to consult "chief-to-chief" with Secretary Perdue have proven unsuccessful. As recognized in OVK Resolution No. 2018-24, the existing National Roadless Rule protects lands that "not only provide our people with food, [but] they essentially define who we are and where we come from." Not only does the proposed full exemption threaten the lands and resources we have depended on since time immemorial, but the process followed by the U.S.D.A., Forest Service, and State of Alaska fails to ensure timely and meaningful government-to-government consultation and collaboration with the Tribe. This proposed rulemaking will impose significant and unique burdens on OVK's exercise of its priority government function – "protecting the general welfare and security of the village," which is accomplished by OVK's safeguarding of the Village's customary and traditional hunting, fishing, gathering areas and uses (also known as 'subsistence activities').

We are dismayed that the Forest Service is not using the best available scientific information for this rulemaking. Given the inadequacy of the information and analyses contained in the DEIS regarding potential costs and benefits of the proposed action, we question whether the agency can satisfy its responsibilities under the E.O. 12866 'Regulatory Planning and Review'<sup>6</sup> to make a reasoned assessment of the need for the proposed action and the costs and benefits of the action. We question the reasonableness of the agency's conclusion that this regulatory action will be a

---

<sup>4</sup> United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture. (1947). *Sugar situation: Hearings before Subcommittee of the Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, Eightieth Congress, first session, January 21, 1947*. Washington: U.S. G.P.O.

<sup>5</sup> Sen. Murkowski Hosts Sec. Perdue in Southeast Alaska (2018)

<https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/7/sen-murkowski-hosts-sec-perdue-in-southeast-alaska>

<sup>6</sup> Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993 "Regulatory Planning and Review"

'durable solution', promote economic growth, promote predictability and reduce uncertainty, or take into full account both the quantitative and qualitative costs and benefits of the action. Under agency planning regulations, the agency must document the basis for deciding that the information disclosed is the best available scientific information and "accurate, reliable, and relevant to the issues being considered." *See* 36 C.F.R. 219.3. The DEIS fails to meet these standards and the reasoning for the preferred alternative can be easily considered arbitrary and capricious.

Similarly, the Forest Service's failure to use the most updated roadless inventory data for this rulemaking concerns us greatly. Importantly, the updated inventory would include roadless areas in the Keex' Kwaan traditional area that were not included in the 1996 inventory used as the basis for the 2001 Roadless Rule, specifically critical lands in Three mile Arm, Seclusion Harbor, and No Name, Alvin, and Reid Bays. Although we continue to support the No Action Alternative, and urge the Secretary of Agriculture to pick it as the Preferred Alternative for this rulemaking, we also urge the Forest Service to update the existing National Roadless Rule to apply to all Tongass Inventoried Roadless Areas, particularly those important to Keex' Kwaan.

We strongly disagree with the agency's conclusion in the DEIS that "[a]n ANILCA Section 810 evaluation and determination is not required for the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking because it is a programmatic level decision and not a determination whether to "withdraw, reserve, lease, or otherwise permit the use, occupancy, or disposition.'" (DEIS at 3-255). How can the opening of old growth forests to logging by stripping roadless protections for these lands not be considered a withdrawal of existing protection for roadless areas and the resources they support? This conclusion is even inconsistent with the other facts reported in the DEIS. For example, the DEIS acknowledges that under all the action alternatives "[t]he reduction of biodiversity associated with old-growth forest and fragmentation would be greatest in the Kupreanof/Mitkof Island, Etolin Island & Vicinity, and North Central Prince of Wales biogeographic provinces." The DEIS also reveals that in 1990 hunters "reported that old-growth forests were mentioned as the most reliable by 90 percent of the households harvesting deer [and] were most often used areas by 91 percent of the households." (DEIS at 3-249). The DEIS contains no data refuting these previous reports, which indicates that the selection preferred alternative is based on incomplete and faulty reasoning and political motivations.

OVK is concerned that following a full repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule from the Tongass, the Forest Service will next attempt to revise the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan, (TLMP) and amend it to authorize logging in roadless areas on a project-by-project basis. In such circumstances, it is likely the agency will turn to the analysis contained in any relevant EIS previously prepared for the Tongass National Forest for this rule making, including the analysis contained in the Alaska Roadless Rule DEIS. Given the agency must consult and coordinate forest planning on the Tongass NF with Alaska Native Tribes (36C.F.R.291.4), we are gravely concerned that the agency's failure to consult and collaborate adequately with the tribe on this Alaska-specific roadless rulemaking process will impair the agency's performance of its responsibility to consult and coordinate with Tribe regarding any future DEIS for the Tongass. Both outcomes impair the Tribe's responsibility to "protect the general welfare and security of the village." As OVK listens to the public comment at other community meetings, a large majority of the Alaska citizens are wanting to keep the roadless rule intact and not changed; in fact, in many cases more protections are being asked for. OVK was one of the original Cooperating Agencies from the beginning along with the State of

Alaska and 5 other Tribes in Southeast. All tribal cooperating agencies signed a joint letter when the DEIS was released in October 2019 expressing profound disappointment with the manner the roadless rule exemption process has been handled (see attached Tribal CA letter to Secretary Perdue October 2019, and Tribal CA Press Release 2019).

In this world of climate change, the USDA should preserve what is left rather than loosen the regulations to have more development on the pristine Tongass roadless areas. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change that would result from increased development authorized by a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Rule stand to disproportionately affect minority communities, especially rural Alaska Natives communities in Southeast Alaska. Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," directs each Federal Agency to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations," including tribal populations. The fact that OVK tribal citizens rely on the surrounding intact habitat provided by inventoried roadless areas for our food security, cultural practices and traditional way of life means that compliance with E.O. 12898<sup>7</sup> has been insufficiently analyzed in the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process. Our tribal communities **will** be disproportionately impacted by proposed regulatory changes and this is a potential violation of the U.S. government's own regulations concerning environmental justice. Please find attached three (3) resolutions from the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Alaska Federation of Natives, and the National Congress of American Indians that support a no change alternative, supporting OVK's efforts to keep the Roadless Rule intact on the Tongass National Forest.

We, the Federally Recognized Tribe of the Village of Kake, were not granted Sovereignty; we have always maintained it, since time immemorial. The U.S. Government is our Fiduciary Trustee of natural resources, which means the government must act with Good Faith and Loyalty to promote the best interests of the Indians. To achieve that end, the Organized Village of Kake advocates for **no changes to the roadless rule** apart from inclusion of the aforementioned inventoried roadless areas that were excluded from original protections underneath the 2001 Rule. The Organized Village of Kake supports a no action alternative and urges the U.S. government to respect the wishes of the communities it seeks to serve.

Gunalcheesh,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel Jackson" followed by a stylized flourish.

Joel Jackson  
President

attachments

---

<sup>7</sup> Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994 "Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations"

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KAKE,  
" ALASKA



APPROVED NOVEMBER 17, 1947



UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1950

Law  
Office  
Indian Tribes  
Organized Villages  
Ketchikan Alaska  
1

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KAKE, ALASKA

## PREAMBLE

We, the Kake Indians of Alaska, an Indian band or tribe, in order to promote our welfare through the development and operation of social and economic enterprises, do ordain and establish this Constitution and By-laws in accordance with, and by authority of, the Acts of Congress of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), and May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250).

## ARTICLE I—NAME

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be the Organized Village of Kake, hereinafter referred to as the Village.

## ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. The membership of this Village shall be as follows:

(a) All persons whose names appear on the roll of those entitled to vote on the adoption of this Constitution and By-laws, consisting of the residents of this Village, as provided in Article VI, section 2, of the By-laws. Within one year from the approval of this Constitution the Council elected under this Constitution may make corrections in this roll, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) All children both of whose parents are enrolled members of the Village.

(c) All children one of whose parents is an enrolled member of the Village and has a permanent home in the Village at the time of the adoption of the Constitution or of the birth of the children.

(d) All other persons of Indian blood who are adopted by the Council.

SEC. 2. All members and their minor children who cease to make a permanent home in the Village shall cease to be members of this Village until they resume their residence.

SEC. 3. Any member who, after notice and an opportunity to present his defense, is found guilty by the Village of fraud or misconduct in his relations with the Village or of working deliberately against the interests of the Village may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting. A person so ex-

pelled may be reinstated as a member upon written application filed with the Secretary of the Council and two-thirds vote of the membership present at any regular meeting.

SEC. 4. The Council may make rules and regulations governing the enrollment and adoption of members and the conditions under which a member may abandon his membership, or having abandoned it, be readmitted to membership, subject to approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 5. *Definition of Residence.*—Any person shall be considered a resident of the neighborhood of Kake who maintains a home within the Village or in any area of lands occupied or claimed by the Kake Indians.

### ARTICLE III—THE GOVERNING BODY

SECTION 1. The governing body of this Village shall be a Council composed of the president and six members, elected by the membership of the village over the age of 18.

SEC. 2. The membership of the Village shall meet on the second Monday in October and third Monday in February of each year, at which time it may increase the size of the Council, or otherwise regulate the size of the Council: *Provided*, That the number is not reduced to less than six; and may attend to such other business as may be lawful. At the regular meeting of the Village on the third Monday in February, the members of the Village shall make nominations and determine the candidates for election.

SEC. 3. Council members shall be elected on the annual election date and shall serve for a period of two years or until their successors are elected and qualified. Vacancies may be filled by the Council but only pending the next meeting of the Village, when a new member shall be elected to fill the unexpired term.

SEC. 4. The president shall be elected annually to serve for a term of one year.

SEC. 5. The first regular Council elected under this Constitution shall divide itself into two equal groups "A" and "B", by drawing lots, whereupon the term of office of those in group "A" shall terminate on the election date of each even-numbered year and the term of those in group "B" shall terminate on the annual election date of each odd-numbered year. Thereafter each member of the Council shall serve two years.

SEC. 6. The Council shall organize itself within 30 days after each annual election date by electing from within its membership a vice president, and from within or without, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as it may deem necessary. Officers elected from without the Council shall not vote therein.

## ARTICLE IV—ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. The annual election date shall be the first Thursday after the third Monday in April.

SEC. 2. Within 60 days after the approval of this Constitution, the Mayor of Kake shall call and supervise an election of a Temporary Council to serve until the first regular election under this Constitution.

SEC. 3. Any adult member of this Village as defined in Article V, section 2 of the By-laws shall have the right to vote in all Village elections, except on the ratification of this Constitution and amendments thereto the voter must be 21 years of age or over.

SEC. 4. All elections shall be by secret ballot and shall be held in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Council.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the secretary to notify each person of his election within five days thereafter.

## ARTICLE V—POWERS

SECTION 1. The Council shall exercise the following powers, subject to any limitations imposed by the statutes or Constitution of the United States and subject further to all express restrictions upon such powers contained in this Constitution and By-laws.

(a) To negotiate with the Federal and Territorial Governments on behalf of the Village and to advise and consult with representatives of the Interior Department on all activities of the Department that may affect the Village of Kake.

(b) To employ legal counsel. So long as the law requires it, the choice of counsel and fixing of fees shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) To manage and control all the economic affairs and enterprises of the Village in accordance with the terms of a charter which may be issued to the Village by the Secretary of the Interior.

(d) To prevent the sale, disposition, lease or encumbrance of Village land, interest in land or waters or in other assets of the Village without the consent of the Council.

(e) To organize or to charter associations of its members for economic purposes and to regulate the same.

(f) To provide for the guardianship of the persons and property of minors and mental incompetents, consistent with Territorial and Federal law.

(g) To levy dues, fees, assessments, and fines on the members for Village purposes, and charges on non-members for the use of property of the Village, and to provide for the collection thereof.

(h) To provide for filling vacancies in office consistent with this Constitution.

(i) To advise the Secretary of the Interior with regard to all appropriation estimates for Federal projects for the benefit of the Village prior to the submission of such estimates to the Bureau of the Budget and to Congress.

(j) To make assignments of Village lands to members of the Village in accordance with the custom of the Village or the regulations of the Council.

(k) To protect and preserve the timber, fisheries and other property and natural resources of the Village.

(l) To aid needy members and protect the general welfare and security of the Village.

SEC. 2. The Council of the Village of Kake may exercise such further powers as may in the future be delegated to the Council by members of the Village or by the Federal or Territorial Government.

SEC. 3. Any rights and powers previously possessed by the Village of Kake but not expressly referred to in this Constitution shall not be abridged by this Constitution, but may be exercised by the people of the Village in a referendum vote with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

## ARTICLE VI—BILL OF RIGHTS

SECTION 1. The Council shall not restrict or in any way abridge the rights of its members guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States but it shall be its duty to see that the full constitutional rights thereof are maintained and preserved.

SEC. 2. All members of the Village shall be accorded equal right and opportunity to participate in and enjoy the resources, property, and benefits of this organization.

## ARTICLE VII—REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

### SECTION 1.

(a) Any member or officer of the Council who is convicted of a felony or any offense involving dishonesty shall forfeit his office;

(b) Any member of the Council who is absent from the regular meetings of the Council for a period of three months without cause or excuse, may have his seat declared vacant by the Council, whereupon the Council shall fill it as in other vacancies.

(c) *Recall.*—Upon a petition signed by one-third of the adult members of the Village asking the recall of any member of the Council, the Council shall call a special meeting of the Village to vote upon his recall. If the Council member is recalled, the Village members shall proceed to elect his successor to fill the unexpired term.

## ARTICLE VIII—FEDERATION

The Council may for the purpose of forming a federation or union with other organizations of like character appoint a committee to meet with such other organizations, and submit its findings to the said Council for appropriate action.

## ARTICLE IX—AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Village of Kake twenty-one years of age or over voting at an election called for the purpose by the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided*, That at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote in such election; but no amendment shall become effective until it shall have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to call an election upon receipt of written resolution signed by a majority of the Council.

## BY-LAWS OF THE ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KAKE

### ARTICLE I—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

**SECTION 1.** The President of the Council shall preside over all meetings of the Village and shall be chairman of the Council exercising the usual duties of chairman and any others delegated to him. He may vote in Council meetings only in case of a tie or where the vote is by ballot.

**SEC. 2.** The Council shall elect a Vice President who shall act as president in the absence or disability of the President.

**SEC. 3.** The Secretary of the Council shall conduct all correspondence and keep a complete and accurate record of all business transacted at Council or Village meetings.

The Secretary shall record all rules, regulations, and ordinances in appropriate books, indexing the same and assigning short titles, and may publish the same for the information of the Village.

**SEC. 4.** The Treasurer of the Council shall accept, receive, receipt for, reserve, and safeguard all funds in the custody of the Council, whether Village funds or other funds for which the Council is responsible. He shall deposit all such funds in such banks or elsewhere as directed by the Council. He shall make and preserve a faithful record of such funds and shall report to the Council all receipts and expenditures and the amount and nature of all funds in his possession or custody. He shall not pay out or authorize disbursement of any funds for which he is responsible except in the manner authorized by the Council.

The books and records of the Treasurer shall be audited at least once each year by a competent auditor employed by the Council and at such other times as the Council shall direct. He shall direct the auditor in writing to send two copies of his report to the Juneau Office of the Alaska Native Service. He shall also send two copies of his trial balance once each month to the Juneau Office.

The Treasurer shall be required to give bond satisfactory to the Council and until he does so all money shall be deposited according to the direction of the Juneau Office of the Office of Indian Affairs. The Treasurer shall be present at all special or regular meetings of the Council. The Treasurer may with the advice and consent of the Council appoint assistants.

SEC. 5. The duties of all appointive officers or agents shall be clearly defined by resolution of the Council at the time of their appointment.

#### ARTICLE II—QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS

No person may be a candidate for any elective office unless he has the qualifications of a voter.

#### ARTICLE III—INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Each person appointed or elected to an office shall subscribe to the following oath of office before entering upon the duties thereof:

“I, -----, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies; that I will carry out faithfully and impartially the duties of my office as ----- to the best of my ability; that I will promote and protect the best interests of the Organized Village of Kake, in accordance with this Constitution and By-laws.”

#### ARTICLE IV—TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION 1. The Council shall meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p. m., unless otherwise ordered by resolution, and may meet at such other times as may seem desirable to the Council.

SEC. 2. A number equal to one-half of the entire membership of the Council exclusive of the President shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 3. The following shall be the order of business unless changed by or with the consent of the Council, namely:

Call to order by the President;

Roll call;

Announcement of quorum;

Reading the minutes of the last meeting;

Correction or approval of the minutes of last meeting;

Treasurer's report;  
 Report of committees;  
 Unfinished business;  
 New business;  
 Adjournment.

SEC. 4. When there is no special rule, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the law governing the procedure of the Council.

SEC. 5. Every resolution, after the explanatory clauses, shall begin with the words: "Be it resolved by the Council of the Organized Village of Kake."

#### ARTICLE V—DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1. Where the masculine pronoun is used it shall be understood to include the feminine.

SEC. 2. The word "adult" means a person who is 18 years of age or over.

#### ARTICLE VI—RATIFICATION

SECTION 1. This Constitution and By-laws shall be effective when ratified by a majority vote of the Kake Indians of Alaska, voting at an election called for the purpose by the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided*, That at least 30 percent of the members of the Village of Kake twenty-one years of age or over shall vote in such election.

SEC. 2. The Indians entitled to vote on the ratification of this Constitution and on amendments thereto shall be all those Kake Indians twenty-one years of age or over whose names appear on a roll of such Indians prepared under the Instructions of the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. This Constitution and By-laws are herewith approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and submitted for ratification by the Kake Indians of Alaska, in a popular referendum called and held under the Instructions of the Secretary of the Interior.

[SEAL] WILLIAM E. WARNE,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 17, 1947.*

#### CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

Pursuant to an order, approved November 17, 1947, by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, the attached Constitution and By-laws was submitted for ratification to the Kake Indians of Alaska, and was on January 27, 1948, duly ratified by a vote of 117 for, and 1 against, in an election in which over thirty percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots, in accordance with section 16 of the Indian Reorganiza-

tion Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended by the Acts of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378) and May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250).

ERNEST WILLIAMS,  
*Chairman, Election Board.*

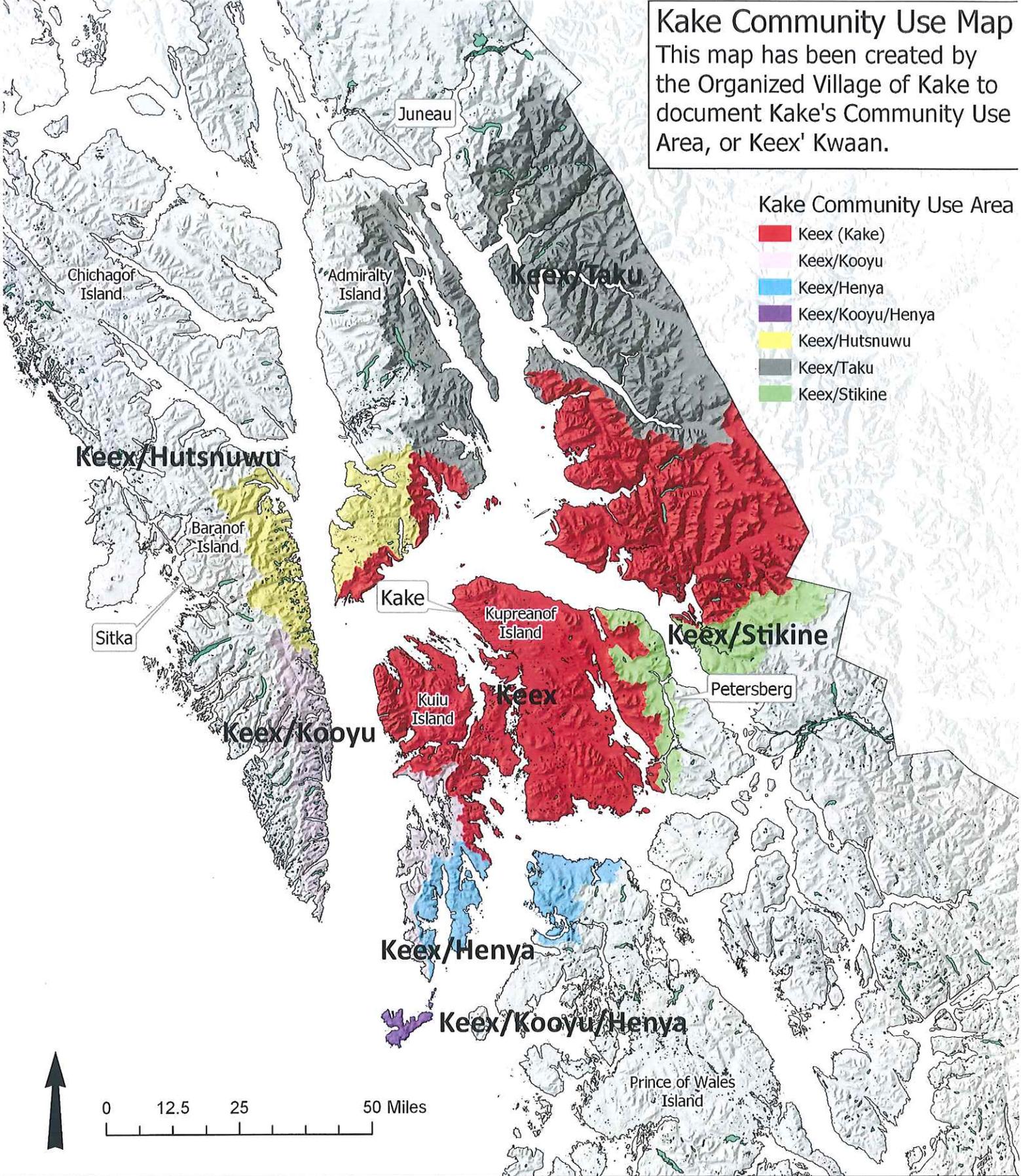
CHARLIE JACKSON,  
*Secretary, Election Board.*

ARTHUR H. WALKER,  
*Government Representative.*

○

# Kake Community Use Map

This map has been created by the Organized Village of Kake to document Kake's Community Use Area, or Keex' Kwaan.



Organized Village of Kake  
P.O. Box 316

Kake, Alaska 99830-0316  
Telephone 907-785-6471

Fax 907-785-4902 / [www.kake-nsn.gov](http://www.kake-nsn.gov)  
Federally Recognized Tribal Government  
serving the Kake, Alaska area





**Organized Village of Kake**

**P.O. Box 316**

**Kake, Alaska 99830-0316**

Telephone 907-785-6471

Fax 907-785-4902 / [www.kake-nsn.gov](http://www.kake-nsn.gov)



**(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)**

October 31, 2019

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Honorable Secretary Perdue,

Please find attached invoice for services rendered that includes but not limited to the Organized Village of Kake's (OVK) capacity for specialized knowledge and expertise on land management, subsistence, natural resources, and potential impacts to specific communities within Alaska in regard to the Alaska specific Roadless Rulemaking process that started fall of 2018.

Questions or concerns regarding this can be directed to the OVK Executive Director, Dawn Jackson at (907) 785-6471 ext. 111 or [ed@kake-nsn.gov](mailto:ed@kake-nsn.gov).

Gunalcheesh,

Joel Jackson  
President

**Organized Village of**  
**541 Keku Rd**  
**Kake, Alaska 99830**  
**(907)785-6471**

**INVOICE**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 C/O Under Secretary Hubbard  
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
 Washington, DC 20250

<b>DATE</b>
10/31/2019
<b>NUMBER</b>
540
<b>TOTAL</b>
2,000,000.00

Payment Due: 11/30/2019

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	U/M	Amount
1	Services Rendered as a Tribal Cooperating Agency Alaska Specific Roadless Rulemaking on the Tongass National Forest	1.00	2,000,000.00	None	2,000,000.00



## **Organized Village of Kake**

**P.O. Box 316**

**Kake, Alaska 99830-0316**

Telephone 907-785-6471

Fax 907-785-4902 / [www.kake-nsn.gov](http://www.kake-nsn.gov)



**(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)**

September 7, 2018

Forest Supervisor Earl Stewart  
U.S. Forest Service  
Tongass National Forest  
648 Mission Street  
Federal Building  
Ketchikan, AK 99901-6591

RE: Scoping Period for the Roadless Rule

Dear Mr. Stewart,

The Organized Village of Kake (OVK) is the federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the authority of the Indian Reorganization Acts of 1934 and 1936. OVK is empowered under its Constitution and By-Laws "to aid needy citizens and protect the general welfare and security of the village." One of OVK's highest priorities is to protect the Village's customary and traditional hunting, fishing and gathering areas and uses within the Keex' Kwaan's (Children of Kake) traditional territory.<sup>1</sup> These lands include national forest lands on Kuiu and Kupreanof Islands, as well as portions of the mainland.

On August 2, 2018, in response to the State of Alaska's petition for a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule), the Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Alaska to develop an Alaska state-specific roadless rule to address the management of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced on August 30, 2018 its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and public rulemaking process to . According to the Notice of Intent, the State of Alaska will participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS and "Federally recognized Tribes within the Tongass National Forest have been invited to participate as a cooperating agency." The notice further gave notice of eleven public meetings planned in Southeast Alaska, including Kake on September 26, 2018.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13175, Departmental Regulation No. 1350-002, and Forest Service Manual (FSM), the United States Forest Service has adopted official policy regarding American Indian and Alaska Native relations. Pursuant to FSM 1563.02, paragraph 4, agency officials are to "[s]upport the aspirations of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." Specifically, this means "that agency officials should consult with indigenous people – the duly elected officials of federally recognized tribes and the traditional holders of Indian religions, knowledge, and practices – early in their decision-making processes." To further this

---

<sup>1</sup> Goldschmidt & Haas (1946). A map of the traditional territory of the Kake Tlingit prepared by Goldschmidt and Haas is attached, for your information.

objective, it is the policy of the Forest Service that “Indian tribes will be provided the opportunity for timely and meaningful government-to-government consultation regarding actions which may have tribal implications.” *See* FSM 1563.03. Such consultation requires the agency to “[c]ollaboratively involve Indian tribes, as early as possible, in the development of regulatory and management policies, resource and land management plans, study plans and actions, and Federal undertakings that may have tribal implications.” *Id.* at 3.b.

The U.S.D.A. and Forest Service entered into the MOU with the State of Alaska and issued the NOI for preparation of an EIS for an Alaska-specific roadless rule without any consulting or collaboration with OVK, in violation of policies under Executive Order 13175, Departmental Regulation No. 1350-002, and the Forest Service Manual. OVK strongly object to the agency’s utter failure to consult with OVK prior to responding to the State of Alaska’s petition and initiating preparation of an EIS to support the rulemaking process. The belated invitation to the Tribe to participate as a cooperating agency, and holding a scoping hearing in Kake, cannot compensate for the agency’s abject failure to consult and collaborate with the Tribe before proceeding with this Alaska-specific rulemaking – particularly when the proposed rulemaking has such grave and drastic tribal implications for the many tribal citizens who rely on these lands. Likewise, the State of Alaska’s establishment of the Alaska Roadless Rule Citizen Advisory Committee, which will include at least one member representing a federally recognized Tribe, will not address our concerns. First, it appears that this committee by design will not assure fair and balanced representation of both development and non-development interests. Secondly, the proposed schedule for the committee providing recommendations to the Governor and State Forester elevates satisfying the State’s hurried and arbitrary timeline above the interests of any other stakeholders in this process.

In a recent fact sheet put on [the agency’s Alaska Roadless Rule web site](#), the agency clarifies what this rulemaking process will affect the 2016 Tongass Plan Amendment by stating:

The Alaska Roadless Rule will not make any changes to the 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan or projects currently being implemented or proposed to implement the transition to a primarily young-growth timber program. Following a final decision on a state-specific roadless rule, the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan could be amended or revised to reflect any management designations established by the state-specific rule.

We disagree. Since the Plan incorporated the recommendation from the Tongass Advisory Committee to exclude roadless areas from the timber base, clearly adoption of a rule that weakens or eliminates Roadless Area protections on the Tongass will have a substantial effect on the existing plan. We are particularly concerned that the Forest Service will delay revising the Plan and amend it to authorize logging in roadless areas on a project-by-project basis. In such circumstances, it is likely the agency will tier to the analysis contained in any EIS prepared for this rulemaking. Given the agency must consult and coordinate forest planning on the Tongass with Alaska Native Tribes ([36 C.F.R. 291.4](#)), we are gravely concerned that the agency’s failure to consult and collaborate adequately with the Tribe on this Alaska-specific rule will impair the agency’s performance of its responsibility to consult and coordinate with the Tribe regarding forest planning. Both outcomes impair the Tribe’s responsibility to “protect the general welfare and security of the village.”

Given where we are at this process, we recommend the Forest Service withdraw the August 30<sup>th</sup> notice and immediately comply with its responsibilities to consult and collaborate with the Tribes. Another, less preferable option, would be to extend the deadline for submitting scoping comments from October 15<sup>th</sup> until at least December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Such an extension would help ensure that OVK has at least 90 days to engage with its citizens and the Forest Service on this issue of such enormous controversy.

Gunalcheesh,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel Jackson President".

Joel Jackson  
President

Cc: Petersburg District Ranger David Zimmerman, [dlzimmerman@fs.fed.us](mailto:dlzimmerman@fs.fed.us)  
Acting Alaska Regional Forester David E. Schmid, [dschmid@fs.fed.us](mailto:dschmid@fs.fed.us)  
USDA Forest Service Interim Chief Vicki Christiansen, [vcchristiansen@fs.fed.us](mailto:vcchristiansen@fs.fed.us)



## Organized Village of Kake

P.O. Box 316

Kake, Alaska 99830-0316

Telephone 907-785-6471

Fax 907-785-4902 / [www.kake-nsn.gov](http://www.kake-nsn.gov)



*(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)*

October 10, 2018

Alaska Roadless Rule  
U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
Alaska Region  
Ecosystem Planning and Budget Staff  
P.O. Box 21628  
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

RE: Organized Village of Kake Comments for Roadless Rule in Alaska

To Whom it may concern,

The Organized Village of Kake (OVK) is the federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the authority of the Indian Reorganization Acts of 1934 and 1936. OVK is empowered under its Constitution and By-Laws "to aid needy citizens and protect the general welfare and security of the village." One of OVK's highest priorities is to protect the Village's customary and traditional hunting, fishing and gathering areas and uses within the Keex' Kwaan's traditional territory.<sup>1</sup> These lands include national forest lands on Kuiu, Kupreanof, and portions of Baranof & Admiralty Islands, as well as portions of the mainland. OVK would like to engage with the USFS and State of Alaska as a co-manager/cooperator of resources in the traditional Kake, AK area. Many of OVK's citizens are on the ground utilizing all of the areas around Kake and are the first impacted by decision makers 100 miles away in Juneau and 3,000+ miles away in Washington D.C.

On August 2, 2018, in response to the State of Alaska's petition for a full exemption from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule), the Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Alaska to develop an Alaska state-specific roadless rule to address the management of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced on August 30, 2018 its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and public rulemaking process to According to the Notice of Intent, the State of Alaska will participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS and "Federally recognized Tribes within the Tongass National Forest have been invited to participate as a cooperating agency." The notice further gave notice of eleven public meetings planned in Southeast Alaska, including Kake on September 26, 2018 (Postponed to Oct. 10, 2018).

Pursuant to Executive Order 13175, Departmental Regulation No. 1350-002, and Forest Service Manual (FSM), the United States Forest Service has adopted official policy regarding American Indian and Alaska Native relations. Pursuant to FSM 1563.02, paragraph 4, agency

---

<sup>1</sup> Goldschmidt & Haas (1946). A map of the traditional territory of the Kake Tlingit prepared by Goldschmidt and Haas is attached, for your information.

American Indian and Alaska Native relations. Pursuant to FSM 1563.02, paragraph 4, agency officials are to "[s]upport the aspirations of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. "Specifically, this means "that agency officials should consult with indigenous people –the duly elected officials of federally recognized tribes and the traditional holders of Indian religions, knowledge, and practices –early in their decision-making processes. " To further this objective, it is the policy of the Forest Service that "Indian tribes will be provided the opportunity for timely and meaningful government-to-government consultation regarding actions which may have tribal implications. " See FSM 1563.03. Such consultation requires the agency to "[c]ollaboratively involve Indian tribes, as early as possible, in the development of regulatory and management policies, resource and land management plans, study plans and actions, and Federal undertakings that may have tribal implications. " *Id.* at 3.b.

The U.S.D.A. and Forest Service entered into the MOU with the State of Alaska and issued the NOI for preparation of an EIS for an Alaska-specific roadless rule without any consulting or collaboration with OVK, in violation of policies under Executive Order 13175, Departmental Regulation No. 1350-002, and the Forest Service Manual. OVK strongly objects to the agency's utter failure to consult with OVK prior to responding to the State of Alaska's petition and initiating preparation of an EIS to support the rulemaking process. The belated invitation to the Tribe to participate as a cooperating agency, and holding a scoping hearing in Kake, cannot compensate for the agency's abject failure to consult and collaborate with the Tribe before proceeding with this Alaska-specific rulemaking –particularly when the proposed rulemaking has such grave and drastic tribal implications for the many tribal citizens who rely on these lands. Likewise, the State of Alaska's establishment of the Alaska Roadless Rule Citizen Advisory Committee, which will include at least one member representing a federally recognized Tribe, will not address our concerns; every tribe should be represented on the committee. First, it appears that this committee by design will not assure fair and balanced representation of both development and non-development interests. Secondly, the proposed schedule for the committee providing recommendations to the Governor and State Forester elevates satisfying the State's hurried and arbitrary timeline above the interests of any other stakeholders in this process.

OVK is concerned that the Forest Service will delay revising the Tongass Land Management Plan, (TLMP) and amend it to authorize logging in roadless areas on a project-by-project basis. In such circumstances, it is likely the agency will tier to the analysis contained in any EIS prepared for this rulemaking. Given the agency must consult and coordinate forest planning on the Tongass with Alaska Native Tribes ([36 C.F.R. 291.4](#)), we are gravely concerned that the agency's failure to consult and collaborate adequately with the Tribe on this Alaska-specific rule will impair the agency's performance of its responsibility to consult and coordinate with the Tribe regarding forest planning. Both outcomes impair the Tribe's responsibility to "protect the general welfare and security of the village." As OVK listens to the public comment at other community meetings a large majority of the Alaska citizens are wanting the roadless rule intact and not changed; in fact, more protections are being asked for. In this world of changing climate, the State of Alaska should preserve what is left rather than loosening the regulations to have more development on pristine Tongass roadless areas.

---

is attached, for your information.

In conclusion, OVK would like to be at the table while decisions are being made on an Alaska-specific Roadless Rule. OVK would like to engage with the USFS and State of Alaska to guide the projects and activity in the traditional Kake area, from increasing some protections in important cultural areas, to lessening regulations in other areas to promote a sustainable economy. All of the aforementioned decisions should be driven by the communities that utilize that area.

Gunalcheesh,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel Jackson pres.".

Joel Jackson  
President

Cc: Petersburg District Ranger David Zimmerman, [dlzimmerman@fs.fed.us](mailto:dlzimmerman@fs.fed.us)  
Acting Alaska Regional Forester David E. Schmid, [dschmid@fs.fed.us](mailto:dschmid@fs.fed.us)  
USDA Forest Service Interim Chief Vicki Christiansen, [vechristiansen@fs.fed.us](mailto:vechristiansen@fs.fed.us)



**Organized Village of Kake**

P.O. Box 316

Kake, Alaska 99830-0316

Telephone 907-785-6471

Fax 907-785-4902/www.kake-nsn.gov



**(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)**

**Resolution No. 2018-24: Continued Tribal Support for Application of National Roadless Rule on the Tongass National Forest**

- WHEREAS, the Organized Village of Kake (hereinafter OVK) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under federal law and is empowered under its *Constitution & By-Laws* to execute agreements and contracts with the United States to benefit its members; and,
- WHEREAS, OVK is further defined as an Indian Tribe in the Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act, PL 93-638 and as such is entitled to contract with the Federal Government for the operation of any federal programs, services, activities or functions serving its member; and,
- WHEREAS, our traditional territory includes lands on Kupreanof, Kuiu, Eastern Baranof, and southern Admiralty Islands, and along the mainland, including Port Houghton and as far as Taku River south to Port Houghton; and
- WHEREAS, protection of our inherent right to harvest and use our traditional and customary foods requires careful cultural stewardship and protection of our environmental and natural resources; and
- WHEREAS, our care of the lands now classified as “inventoried roadless areas” (IRA) and within the Tongass National Forest stretches for millennia; and
- WHEREAS, these lands not only provide our people with food, they essentially define who we are and where we come from; and
- WHEREAS, inventoried roadless areas protect healthy watersheds that ensure a clean drinking water supply for our Tribal citizens
- WHEREAS, inventoried roadless areas contain many sites sacred to Tribal citizens and other Alaska Natives who use these roadless areas for spiritual and religious practices and other customary uses and activities; and
- WHEREAS, inventoried roadless areas conserve natural diversity, serve as a bulwark against the spread of invasive species; and
- WHEREAS, inventoried roadless areas help ensure the continued protection of indigenous fish and wildlife habitat as it relates to our spiritual, social, nutritional, and ecological values; and
- WHEREAS, given Southeast Alaska’s cool wet weather, the amount of stored carbon in our intact old-growth forest and soils, the Tongass National Forest represents one of the highest carbon stores in the world and the conservation of intact inventoried roadless areas

on the Tongass is essential for maintaining America's resilience and slowing down climate change throughout the world; and

- WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule prevents the disturbance of soils and wasteful construction of damaging roads in inventoried roadless areas; and
- WHEREAS, according to the State of Alaska's own economic experts, Tongass timber is uncompetitive because of permanent and fundamental changes in global timber markets, high labor costs, distance from markets, and less expensive substitutes; and
- WHEREAS, the Tongass timber industry represents less than one percent of today's jobs and earnings in Southeast Alaska; and
- WHEREAS, there are over 5,000 miles of roads already crisscrossing the Tongass National Forest, fragmenting valuable wildlife habitat, threatening salmon by blocking fish passage, and serving as the primary source of sediment into fish streams; and
- WHEREAS, spending millions of taxpayer dollars to build roads in inventoried Tongass roadless areas makes no economic sense, particularly given the agency's enormous road maintenance backlog; and
- WHEREAS, at hearings held across Southeast Alaska in 2000 on the proposed roadless rule, nearly 60 percent of the Southeast Alaskans who spoke at the hearings supported including the Tongass National Forest in the final roadless rule, and has only grown to upward of 80 percent to date; and
- WHEREAS, after the hearing held in Ketchikan during the summer of 2002 on the draft supplemental environmental impact prepared to evaluate recommendations for designating additional inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass as Wilderness, the Ketchikan Daily News reported that roughly 85 percent of the public who testified supported more Wilderness;
- WHEREAS, the State of Alaska petitioned the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to exempt Tongass inventoried roadless areas from the Roadless Rule on January 19, 2018;
- WHEREAS, for all the above reasons, the State's petition severely mischaracterizes the actual extent and impacts of the Roadless Rule on Southeast Alaska; and
- WHEREAS, the State's petition ignores the fact that the USDA narrowly tailored the Roadless Rule to limit only two activities in roadless areas, road construction and commercial logging; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's petition ignores the Rule's established exceptions, including Federal Aid Highway projects connecting communities, access to mining claims, and logging incidental to otherwise permitted activities, including utility corridors and hydropower projects; and

- WHEREAS, on August 2, 2018, the Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Alaska to develop an Alaska-specific roadless rule that addresses management of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest; and
- WHEREAS, three days before the MOU was signed and six months after the State filed its petition, the Forest Service informed OVK by a letter dated 30 July 2018 that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Perdue and State of Alaska Governor Walker had reached an agreement to prepare an Alaska-specific rule that would replace the Roadless Rule and “provid[e] for activities needed to further the State of Alaska’s economic development while conserving roadless areas for future generations;” and
- WHEREAS, the July 30th letter served as an invitation from Acting Regional Forester David E. Schmid to a “Tribal Leader” inviting “government-to-government consultation in advance of a formal public comment period and an opportunity for your Tribe to participate as a cooperating agency” because of our “expertise on subsistence and potential impacts to specific communities within Alaska” during preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the proposed Alaska-specific roadless rule for the Tongass National Forest, and other alternative; and.
- WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which includes the Forest Service, published a Notice of Intent (NOI) published on August 30, 2018 announcing its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and initiate a public rulemaking process; and
- WHEREAS, the joint announcement issued by the Forest Service when the MOU was signed promises to leave unaffected Tongass lands designated Wilderness by Congress, no mention is made of the fate of nearly 900,000 acres of Legislated LUD II lands designated for perpetual protection from logging and roadbuilding by Congress in the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act and the 2014 Sealaska Lands Bill; and
- WHEREAS, Kuiu Island and the surrounding smaller islands are important to the residents of Kake, especially the coastal areas near Kake. Areas most often associated with higher values include the Keku Islands, Kadake Bay and Creek, Port Camden, Rocky Pass, and the East Kuiu Roadless Area on the south and east side of Kuiu Island in addition to all of Kupreanof;
- WHEREAS, any rule that weakens or eliminates Roadless Rule protections within our traditional territory in what became Inventoried Roadless Areas of the Tongass National Forest will substantially affect the existing 2016 Tongass Land Management Plan Amendment; and
- WHEREAS, the 2016 Plan Amendment excluded all roadless areas from the available timber base, the agency’s failure to consult and coordinate forest planning with OVK will impair the Tribe’s ability to fulfill its responsibility to “protect the general welfare and security” of Tribal citizens; and.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order 13175, Departmental Regulation No. 1350-002, and Forest Service Manual (FSM), the United States Forest Service adopted an official policy (FSM 1563.02, paragraph 4) to “[s]upport the aspirations of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.” Specifically, this means “that agency officials should consult with indigenous people – the duly elected officials of federally recognized tribes and the traditional holders of Indian religions, knowledge, and practices – early in their decision-making processes;” and

WHEREAS, as provided in FSM 1563.03, it is the policy of the Forest Service that “Indian tribes will be provided the opportunity for timely and meaningful government-to-government consultation regarding actions which may have tribal implications” and such consultation requires the agency to “[c]ollaboratively involve Indian tribes, as early as possible, in the development of regulatory and management policies, resource and land management plans, study plans and actions, and Federal undertakings that may have tribal implications;” and

WHEREAS, the USDA and Forest Service entered into an MOU with the State of Alaska and issued the NOI for preparation of an EIS for an Alaska-specific roadless rule without prior consultation or collaboration with OVK; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has not explained adequately why it failed to fulfill its responsibilities to consult with the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska continues to resist all efforts to develop and work in a government to government relationship with the Tribes and never consulted with the OVS before filing its petition with the USDA; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker issued Administrative Order 299, establishing the Alaska Roadless Rule Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) on September 5, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Governor Walker appointed 13 Alaskans to the CAC, including the Alaska State Forester, to advise the State of Alaska on the future management of inventoried roadless area in the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Governor appointed a single Alaska Native to represent all Tribal perspectives for the seventeen federally-recognized Tribes of Alaska Natives in Southeast Alaska on the CAC, a gigantic and unrealistic burden for one person; and

WHEREAS, the only other Alaska Native on the CAC represents Sealaska Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Sealaska is an Alaska Native for-profit Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act -- not a Tribe; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OVK strongly supports lasting protection for all inventoried roadless areas within OVK’s traditional territory now within the Tongass National Forest as provided for in the Roadless Rule; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, given the serious and long lasting Tribal implications from any reduction in current Roadless Rule protections, we strongly object to the Forest Service's failure to consult with OVK before deciding to grant the State of Alaska's petition and begin a review under the National Environmental Policy Act and public rulemaking process;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the only changes to the Roadless Rule that OVK can support is an update to the inventory used to define inventoried roadless areas subject to the Rule on the Tongass to include approximately 350,000 acres excluded from the 1995 inventory used for developing the 2001 Roadless Rule because the agency assumed approved logging development would occur – when it did not;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Forest Service must also initiate consultation, coordination, and accommodation of Tribal interests in any changes to TLMP connected with this rulemaking process.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly adopted at an IRA Council meeting held this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018 by a quorum of 7 (includes president as non-voting chairperson except in case of tie vote) with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstaining.

Joel Jackson pres.  
Joel Jackson, President

Patricia Landy vice  
Attested by

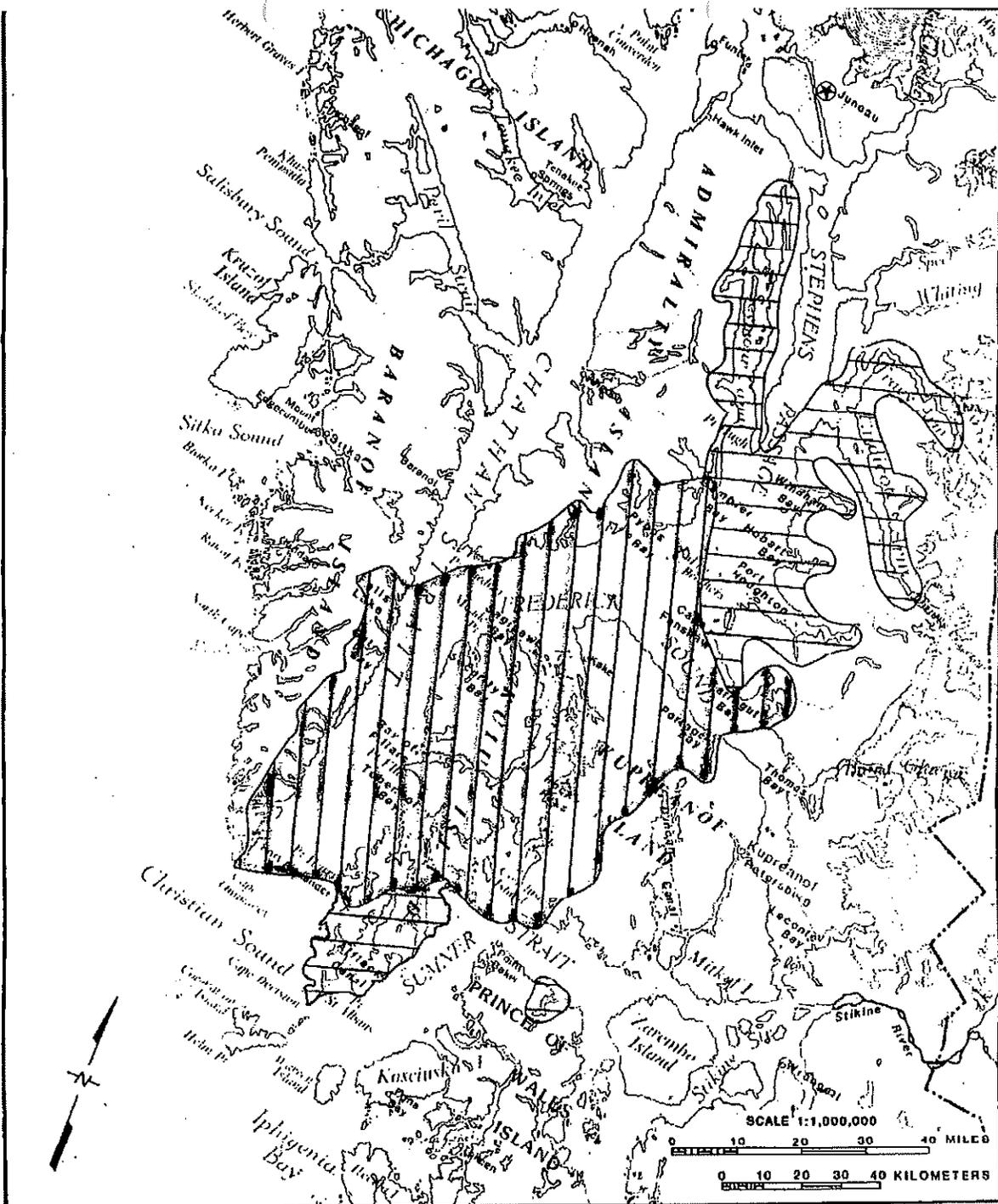
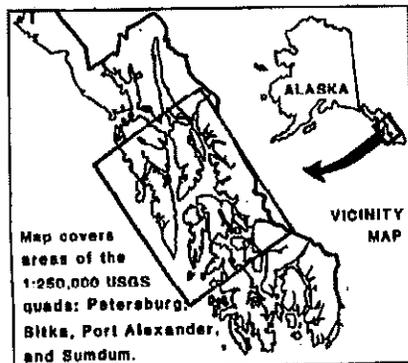


Figure 15. Traditional Territory of the Kake Tlingit, circa 1943.



Exclusive Claim Area

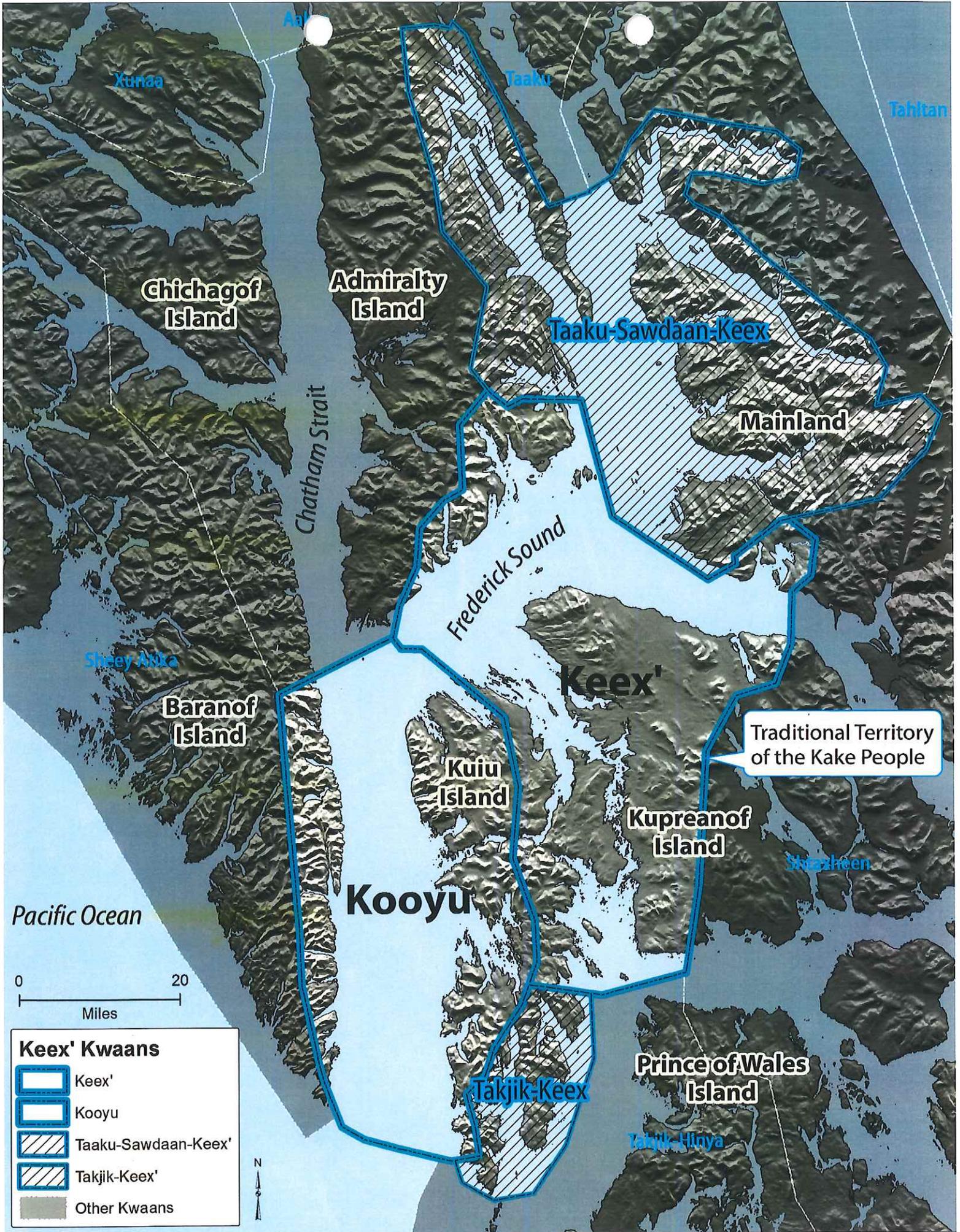


Joint Claim Area

SOURCE: Goldschmidt, W.A., and T.H. Haas 1946. Possessory Rights of the Natives of Southeast Alaska and Department of Interior 1944, Hearings on Claims of the Towns of Hydeborg, Klawock, and Kake, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA  
Department of Fish and Game  
Subsistence Division





Chichagof Island

Admiralty Island

Taaku-Sawdaan-Keex'

Mainland

Baranof Island

Kuiu Island

Kupreanof Island

Prince of Wales Island

Kooyu

Keex'

Takjik-Keex'

Traditional Territory of the Kake People

Pacific Ocean

Chatham Strait

Frederick Sound

0 20 Miles

- Keex' Kwaans**
-  Keex'
  -  Kooyu
  -  Taaku-Sawdaan-Keex'
  -  Takjik-Keex'
  -  Other Kwaans





Organized Village of Kake

PO Box 316  
Kake, Alaska 99830  
Telephone: 907.785.6471  
Fax: 907.785.4902



ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN  
Rt. 2, Box 2, Saxman, Alaska 99901  
Telephone: 907.247.2502  
Fax: 907.247.2502

February 5, 2019

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Honorable Secretary Perdue:

On behalf of the Organized Village of Kake and the Organized Village of Saxman, we request an official government to government consultation with you regarding the proposed Alaska-specific roadless rule. As federally recognized Indian Tribes organized under the Indian Reorganization Acts of 1934 and 1936, our citizens share a deep connection with the incredible waters, lands, and resources of Southeast Alaska; a connection forged by our ancestors over the past 10,000 years --- since time immemorial.

On August 30, 2018, you announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture's intent to initiate an environmental impact statement (EIS) and public rulemaking process to address an Alaska-specific roadless rule for management of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. Before that announcement, neither your office, the Forest Service, nor State of Alaska attempted to consult or collaborate with our Tribes.

Alaska Governor Walker convened a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) last fall to advise the State of Alaska on this important topic; however, only one Alaska Native was appointed to represent the interests of all seventeen federally recognized Indian Tribes from Southeast Alaska. This was a gigantic and unrealistic burden for one individual. The other Alaska Native appointed to the CAC represented Sealaska Corporation, the for-profit Alaska Native Regional Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and state law for Southeast Alaska --is not an Indian Tribe.

While the Forest Service has included some Southeast Alaska Indian Tribes as "cooperating agencies" during preparation of this EIS, the frantic pace necessary to satisfy some preordained timeline imposes substantial burdens on those Tribes hoping to be at the table when decisions are made on an Alaska-specific roadless rule. Given the harms and delays caused by President Trump's shutdown, we are further concerned that careful and informed consultation between our Tribes, your office, and the Forest Service may become little more than an afterthought.

Consequently, as elected leaders of our Tribes, we respectfully request to consult with you directly about the Alaska-specific roadless rule this spring. Since the decision to proceed with this rulemaking, and the ultimate decision, is yours, we believe speaking directly with you is the most effective way of assuring you hear what we need to say. It takes effort, resources, and coordination to travel all the way to Washington D.C., but we hope our willingness indicates how important this issue is to our Tribe's citizens. Please let us know, as soon as possible, when we could meet directly with you. Thank you.

Respectfully,

  
Joel Jackson, President  
Organized Village of Kake  
P.O. Box 316  
Kake, Alaska 99830  
Ph: 907-785-6471

  
Lee Wallace, President  
Organized Village of Saxman  
Rt. 2, Box 2 (Saxman)  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
Ph: 907-247-2502

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Honorable Secretary Perdue,

Since time immemorial, we, the indigenous peoples of Southeast Alaska, have enjoyed an intimate connection with *Haa Aani* (Our Land). The land and waters of our homelands are integral to, and inseparable from, our culture, community vibrancy, rural subsistence lifestyles, and economic opportunity. The signatory tribes have their roots in the Tongass National Forest and have defended the integrity of their indigenous habitat from the destructive forces of colonization since the arrival of the “*dleit káa*” to our lands several hundred years ago.

The granting of the State of Alaska’s petition for an Alaskan exemption to the 2001 National Roadless Conservation Rule on the Tongass in 2018, without consulting any affected Native peoples, represents the most controversial and potentially destructive assault on our way of life to date. It was clear from the outset, that an Alaska Specific Roadless Rule would not leave current roadless protections in place - roadless protections were going to be stripped from the lands we have called home since time immemorial.

In our opinion, our ability to influence the “proposed” roadless rulemaking was going to be through acceptance of the Forest Service’s belated offer to participate as “cooperating agencies” during the ongoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. As cooperating agencies, we had hoped our involvement in the early formulation of the alternatives and advocacy for alternatives most suitable to our communities would help to mitigate the worst of the potential impacts to our communities. We knew our voice would not be heard if we were not at the table, thus in good faith, we entered the process as a “cooperating agency”.

We are profoundly disappointed with the manner the roadless rule exemption process been handled, especially as regards the federally recognized tribes that involved themselves as “cooperating agencies”. It is our opinion that the lead agency has not honored their responsibility to cooperating agencies. Specifically, we point to two sections of the main steps of the NEPA process (40 CFR § 1501.6 - Cooperating agencies. § 1501.6 Cooperating agencies) which we do not feel have been met:

- “(2) Use the environmental analysis and proposals of cooperating agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise, to the maximum extent possible consistent with its responsibility as lead agency.”
- “(3) Meet with a cooperating agency at the latter's request.”

The U.S. Forest Service plowed recklessly ahead at a frantic pace to satisfy a predetermined timeline. The arbitrary two-week deadline given for cooperating agencies to review and comment on the Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was insufficient for us to solicit insights fully from our respective Tribal Councils into the far-reaching implications of this

controversial rulemaking. Additionally, the USFS declined to address all of the substantive concerns raised by cooperating agency Tribes on the Preliminary DEIS, including updating community use areas to reflect traditional territories/uses accurately or consider alternatives that provide co-management authority for Tribes concerning all activities within inventoried roadless areas located inside a Tribe's traditional territory.

As the rulemaking process advanced, it became apparent that stakeholders, such as the federally recognized tribes, calling for maintenance of the roadless protections and/or very limited changes to the current protections, were at odds with the alternative preferred by the decision makers at the Federal and State level. All of the Tribes on this unified letter have supported the "no and/or limited modification" alternatives since inception. That position is well documented on the record. We believe this position has made the "cooperating agency" Tribes a nuisance factor to be ignored.

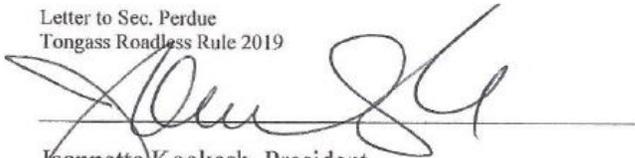
Recently revelations widely reported in the media that a full-exemption of the 2001 Roadless Rule may become the preferred alternative have confirmed our worst fears – the feedback of Tribes, consensus of all Alaskans, and majority of public comments received during the public scoping process were disregarded in their entirety. Blatant disregard for any of the needs of the Cooperating Agency Tribes disregards the mandates of the NEPA process. The only voice being used "to the maximum extent possible" is the voice of industry and lobbyists looking to maximize the short-term gains of extraction industries in the Tongass National Forest.

Although it should be unnecessary to say, we say it again : inventoried roadless areas conserve natural diversity, serve as a bulwark against the spread of invasive species, protect healthy watersheds, provide climate change resilience, and help ensure the continued protection of indigenous fish and wildlife that Native communities rely on for subsistence food and cultural identity. Full exemption violates the intent of the rule and does not conserve roadless area characteristics, conserve socio-economic well-being, or conserve habitat.

Unlike current administrations at the State and Federal level, we acknowledge that compromise is necessary. Our position compromises between our values and State and Federal desires; it is not unreasonable.

We are asking in a unified voice as Cooperating Agency Tribes that you "use the environmental analysis and proposals of cooperating agencies" to the maximum extent possible. It is our expectation the lead agency will take this matter seriously, and the failure to do so will prove to us beyond a doubt that our voice and the time it implies have no use in this process. It would force us to disavow a broken process and Tribes that joined as "cooperating agencies" will need to determine what their future involvement will be given what seems an inevitable, pre-determined decision that is at odds with the values held for our culture, our citizens, and our environment.

Letter to Sec. Perdue  
Tongass Roadless Rule 2019



---

Jeannette Kookesh, President  
Angoon Cooperative Association



---

Richard Peterson, President  
Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska



---

Robert Starbard, Tribal Administrator, for Frank Wright, President  
Hoonah Indian Association



---

Doreen Witwer, Tribal Administrator, for Sid Edenshaw, President  
Hydaburg Cooperative Association



---

Joel Jackson, President  
Organized Village of Kake



---

Ronald Leighton, President  
Organized Village of Kasaan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 29, 2019

Richard Chalyee Éesh Peterson, President  
Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indians  
[rpeterson@ccthita-nns.gov](mailto:rpeterson@ccthita-nns.gov)  
(907) 463-7102

Joel Jackson, President  
Organized Village of Kake  
[ovkcouncil6@gmail.com](mailto:ovkcouncil6@gmail.com)  
(907) 785-6471

Southeast Alaska Tribal Governments Call for Protection of Tongass National Forest  
***Tribal Leaders United in Opposition to Proposed Full Exemption in the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Consultation process***

KAKE, ALASKA – In an unprecedented show of unity, six federally recognized Tribal governments stepped forward to voice their concern over the federal government’s handling of the proposed Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process and its potential negative impact on tribally significant lands in the Tongass National Forest. The proposed removal of protections for 9.5 million acres of some of the world’s last remaining old growth forest threatens the food security of Southeast Alaska Tribal citizens and imperils efforts to grow tourism and sustain commercial fisheries.

In a joint letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, the Angoon Cooperative Association, Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Hoonah Indian Association, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, Organized Village of Kake, and Organized Village of Kasaan expressed deep disappointment in the year-long process that has not been designed to be fair or equitable from the beginning and has completely ignored the Tribal governments’ voices and concerns. Concern was also expressed as a rushed timeline seemed more focused on political expediency rather than settling on an equitable solution that addressed Tribal concerns.

“It’s absolutely critical that we be at the table instead of on the menu” stated Richard Peterson, President of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA). Throughout the process Tribal leaders have felt their roles and responsibilities as “cooperating agencies” have been undermined by a politically motivated, expedited timeline to be finished by June 2020, even though all of the Tribal representatives repeatedly requested extensions in writing, at meetings, and during teleconferences with the United States Forest Service.

“Most Tongass residents support keeping Roadless protections in place,” President of the Organized Village of Kake, Joel Jackson said. “We have told Senator Murkowski this, and we have testified to the Forest Service, but timber lobbyists asking for taxpayer subsidies to cut down millions of our trees appear to be more convincing.”

The Tribes agreed to participate in this process as “cooperating agencies” in order to have meaningful engagement with, and provide our unique knowledge and expertise to, the US Forest Service regarding

the Alaska Roadless rulemaking process. Coming to the table as partners in this process, the Tribal leaders have worked to provide comments and input on the six alternatives that were crafted by the U.S. Forest Service, who used the recommendations of a diversity of stakeholders in a Citizen Advisory Committee convened by Governor Walker as a starting point. These alternatives represented a variety of compromises between maintaining Roadless Area characteristics while allowing for local infrastructure and economic development needs.

“We spent our own time, money, and energy to invest in creating a workable compromise for the communities of Southeast Alaska to this long-standing controversial issue,” stated Joel Jackson. “We then learned that the State of Alaska was granted \$2M by the U.S. Forest Service to serve in their capacity as a cooperating agency, even though they have never been invested in finding a compromise and have advocated overwhelmingly for a full exemption from the start.” The statement was in response to the Tribe’s learning that a timber special interest group, the Alaska Forest Association, was also granted more than \$200,000 for their expertise and participation.

For many Tribal leaders, this is another indignation and example of environmental injustice as many Alaska Native communities bear the brunt of the climate change impacts and extraction policies that disrupt if not destroy the ecosystems they have come to rely upon while their concerns and voices are ignored.

“Any elected official in Alaska who supports a full exemption, is disregarding their constituents, undermining the public process, and ignoring the sovereign Tribal governments – whose people have lived and depended on these lands and waters since time immemorial,” said CCTHITA President Richard Peterson.

###



## **2019 Annual Convention Suquamish, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #19 - 58**

#### **“SUPPORT OF THE 'NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE' AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE IN THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, ALASKA ROADLESS RULEMAKING PROCESS”**

#### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes of Alaska's southeast region are federally recognized Indian Tribes under federal law and these Tribes' traditional territory includes lands within and around the Tongass National Forest; and

**WHEREAS**, protection of the inherent right to harvest and use tribal traditional and customary foods requires careful cultural stewardship and protection of tribal traditional environmental and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, indigenous peoples' longstanding care of the ancestral lands, now classified as "inventoried roadless areas" (IRA) and, within the Tongass National Forest, has been in place for millennia and these lands not only provide indigenous people with food, they essentially define who we are and where we come from; and

**WHEREAS**, inventoried roadless areas protect healthy watersheds which provide cold, clean water that has sustained Tribal ways of life since time immemorial and, inventoried roadless areas contain many sacred sites integral to Tribal spiritual, religious, and traditional practices; and

**WHEREAS**, inventoried roadless areas conserve natural diversity and help ensure the continued protection of indigenous fish and wildlife habitat as it relates to our spiritual, social, nutritional, and ecological values; and

**WHEREAS**, given Southeast Alaska's cool wet weather, the amount of stored carbon in our intact old-growth forest and soils, the Tongass National Forest represents one of the highest carbon stores in the world and the conservation of intact inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass is essential for slowing down climate change throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the State of Alaska's own economic experts, Tongass timber is uncompetitive because of permanent and fundamental changes in global timber markets, high labor costs, distance from markets, and less expensive substitutes and the Tongass timber industry represents less than one percent of today's jobs and earnings in Southeast Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, at hearings held across Southeast Alaska in 2000 on the proposed roadless rule, nearly 60 percent of the Southeast Alaskans who spoke at the hearings supported including the Tongass National Forest in the final roadless rule, and has grown to upward of 80 percent to date; and

**WHEREAS**, any rule that weakens or eliminates Roadless Rule protections within Tribal traditional territory of the Tongass National Forest will substantially affect Southeast Tribes' inherent Tribal rights to traditional and customary uses of the land; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Tribes enjoying customary and traditional uses of the Tongass National Forest strongly support lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest as provided in the 2001 Roadless Rule; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ATNI requests the Secretary of Agriculture to select the 'no-action alternative' as the preferred alternative in the Tongass National Forest, Alaska - Roadless Rulemaking process.

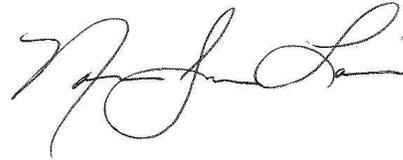
**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2019 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, Suquamish, Washington, on October 7-10, 2019, with a quorum present.



---

Leonard Forsman, President



---

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary



# 2019 Annual AFN Convention Resolutions

Title	Name	Convention Action
<b>SPECIAL RECOGNITION</b>		
19-1	A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRED T. "TED" ANGASAN TO THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY AND FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE	PASS
<b>HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE</b>		
19-2	URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO RESPOND TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS BY UPHOLDING ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES	PASS
19-3	A RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IN ALASKA VIA SMALL PLANE AND FERRY	A&P
19-4	URGING CONGRESS TO PROVIDE AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY FOR TRIBES, TRIBAL ENTITIES AND ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS INTO THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM (FEHB)	A&P
19-5	LACK OF VETERINARY CARE IS AN UNMET PUBLIC HEALTH NEED IN RURAL ALASKA	A&P
19-6	STATE SUPPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	A&P
19-7	SUPPORT FOR A DEDICATED TRIBAL SET-ASIDE IN THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) FUND	PASS
19-8	CALLING UPON THE INHERENT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DISPROPORTIONALLY HIGH RATES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN	A&P

19-9	CALLING UPON CONGRESS PROMPTLY TO ENACT LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING THE JURISDICTION OF ALL TRIBAL NATIONS IN ALASKA TO PROSECUTE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, AND RELATED CRIMES IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES	A&P
19-11	MEDICAID: MEDICAID EXPANSION AS AN ADVOCACY PRIORITY FOR AFN	PASS
19-12	CALLING ON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO AMEND GRANT APPLICATIONS TO REFLECT ALASKAN REALITY	PASS
19-13	STOPPING THE SILENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THE IMPACT ON ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE	A&P
19-14	SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH OUTPATIENT HOUSING IN RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES	A&P
19-15	REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING NEEDS IN RURAL ALASKA	A&P
19-16	A RESOLUTION TO RAISE AWARENESS AND GAIN SUPPORT TO BACKHAUL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE OUT OF RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES AND TO RESPONSIBLY RECYCLE THEM	PASS
19-17	A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY TO REVERSE THE RATE INCREASES AT THE ALASKA PIONEER HOMES	A&P
19-18	FULLY FUNDED PUBLIC SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL ALASKA	PASS
19-19	A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER WORKING GROUP	A&P
19-20	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT	A&P
19-21	ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD AND HISTORICAL TRAUMA IN OUR NATIVE COMMUNITIES	PASS
19-22	REQUEST FOR THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS TO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF THE 101 COLD CASE HOMICIDE VICTIMS	PASS
19-23	SUPPORTING S. 1703 & H.R. 3077 THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT (AHCIA) OF 2019	PASS

19-24	URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR OF ALASKA TO RESTORE FUNDING TO THE ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION'S WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM	PASS
19-25	SUPPORTING THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WITH AN APPROPRIATION AMOUNT OF \$23 MILLION	PASS
19-26	SUPPORTING INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS TO \$800 MILLION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA) INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT (IHBG) WITH SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR INCREASES OF \$50 MILLION PER YEAR UNTIL INFLATIONARY REDUCTIONS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED	PASS
19-27	SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA)	PASS
19-28	SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE TRIBAL HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (TRIBAL HUD-VASH) UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS AND FOR CONGRESS TO PASS SENATE BILL S.257, THE TRIBAL HUD-VASH ACT	PASS
19-29	SUPPORTING \$100 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA), NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT (NAHBG) COMPETITIVE FUNDING	A&P
19-30	SUPPORTING A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIAN PROGRAMS AND FUNDS IN INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT AGREEMENTS	PASS
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
19-31	RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)	PASS
19-32	PROVIDE ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS WITH HIGH QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION IN STATE	A&P
19-33	INVEST IN HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR RURAL, ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES	A&P

19-34	IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING THE STATE OF ALASKA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM	A&P
<b>LAND, ENERGY, &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
19-36	CALLING FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE STATE OF ALASKA TO MANAGE AND PROTECT 17B EASEMENTS THAT ARE ADJACENT TO ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE CORPORATIONS AND REGIONAL CORPORATION LANDS	A&P
19-37	SUPPORT FOR REINSTITUTING THE OCEAN RANGER PROGRAM TO PROTECT ALASKAN WATERS	PASS
19-38	IN SUPPORT OF REINSTATING THE OFFICE OF ENERGY COST SHARE WAIVER	PASS
19-40	A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY, THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES TO REEVALUATE THEIR WILDFIRE STRATEGIES AND RESPOND MORE RAPIDLY TO WILDFIRES NEAR VILLAGES	PASS
<b>ECONOMIC</b>		
19-41	PROMOTING ALASKA AND ALASKA NATIVE-OWNED BUSINESSES	PASS
<b>ANCSA/TRIBAL</b>		
19-42	LANDS IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES BEING HELD IN TRUST BY THE STATE OF ALASKA UNDER SEC. 14(C)(3) OF ANCSA	PASS
19-43	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LANDLESS SOUTHEAST NATIVE COMMUNITIES SEEKING LEGISLATION TO FORM ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT (ANCSA) CORPORATIONS AND RECEIVE ANCSA BENEFITS, INCLUDING LAND SELECTION RIGHTS AND APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION	A&P
19-44	MAKING ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS WHOLE FOR RECONVEYANCES OF ANCSA LAND REQUIRED BY ANCSA SECTION 14(C)	PASS
19-45	A RESOLUTION URGING THE DELEGATION TO AMEND ANCSA TO ADDRESS TREATMENT OF INCOME FROM ANCSA CORPORATIONS AND SETTLEMENT TRUSTS	PASS
<b>OTHER</b>		

19-46	EXPANDING ALASKA NATIVE PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS	A&P
19-47	URGING FULL FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM	PASS
19-48	ESTABLISHING NATIONAL FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION AND A FUNDING PRIORITY FOR ALL RURAL ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES	PASS
19-49	AFN ENCOURAGES MATTEL TO INCLUDE ELIZABETH PERATROVICH IN INSPIRING WOMEN SERIES	PASS
19-50	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION	PASS
19-51	SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL REPATRIATION OF TRIBAL NATIONS' TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES	PASS
19-52	RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS IN ALASKA, URGING EVERY ALASKAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS, ENGAGING WITH THE STATE COMPLETE COUNT COMMISSION	PASS
19-53	A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE ALASKA RURAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE AND SATELLITE SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE ARE FULLY FUNDED AND TO RESTORE ELIMINATED FUNDING TO CONTINUE OPERATIONAL SERVICE AND TO RESTORE FUNDING TO PUBLIC BROADCASTING TO PREVENT FURTHER LOSS OF CRITICAL SERVICES	PASS
19-54	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (ASCA)	A&P
19-55	GOOD GOVERNMENT, ALASKAN DRIVEN	PASS
<b>ELDERS AND YOUTH</b>		
19-56	DECLARATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ALASKA	A&P
19-57	PROTECT CLEAN WATER AND WATER DEPENDENT SPECIES	A&P
19-58	A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ESTABLISHING DREAM CENTERS IN EACH VILLAGE TO CREATE A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO SLEEP	PASS

19-59	A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ALASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE TEACHING ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION WITH FUNDING	AMEND
19-60	REQUESTING SUPPORT FIVE FOCUS AREAS IN ALASKA – COMPACTING FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE) FUNDS	PASS
19-61	CALLING ON ELECTED OFFICIALS, FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO RESPECT TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TO INCORPORATE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND SOLUTIONS IN ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS	A&P
19-62	UPDATE ALASKA HISTORY CURRICULUM	PASS
<b>SUSPENSION OF THE RULES</b>		
19-63	A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (DMV), TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DMV SERVICES IN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES	PASS

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-1

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRED T. “TED” ANGASAN TO THE ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY AND FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** For half a century Ted Angasan has dedicated his time, effort, and wisdom to serving Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan was born in South Naknek in Bristol Bay; his public service began in 1966 and spans the decades since then; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan’s work includes forming and serving as the Executive Director of the Bristol Bay Area Development Corporation in 1966, one of the founders of the Bristol Bay Native Association and served as its Executive Director, and was the chairman of the BBNA Board and Executive Board for many years, and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan currently serves on the South Naknek Village Council and is its Representative to the BBNA Board, continues to represent BBNA and chairs the RurAL CAP Board, is a member of his village corporation Board, and is currently the vice chairman of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan was involved in negotiating the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and witnessed President Nixon sign the legislation in 1971; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan was one of the five original incorporators of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation in 1971, and implemented the land selection process in the Bristol Bay Region; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Angasan has been involved with AFN for over 50 years, participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> AFN Convention in 1966, and served in a variety of positions on the AFN Board.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN recognizes Ted Angasan for his accomplishments, leadership, his long

standing dedication to the Alaska Native community and the Bristol Bay region;  
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives thank Ted Angasan for being a leader in his community and for his many years of tireless service.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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

## **HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-2

- TITLE:** URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO RESPOND TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS BY UPHOLDING ITS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Article VII of the Alaska State Constitution requires the state to provide for public welfare; and
- WHEREAS:** Article I, Section 1, of the Alaska Constitution, which provides ‘this constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law;’ and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has inadequately resourced and established a public safety system in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** 70 Alaskan communities currently have no law enforcement presence at all;
- WHEREAS:** Rural Alaskans, tired of living in fear for their public safety, are increasingly demanding a public safety system and emergency response time on par with urban Alaska to protect rural life and property; and
- WHEREAS:** There are disproportionately high rates of violence and homicide committed against Alaska Native and American Indian women and girls statewide; and
- WHEREAS:** U.S. Attorney General William Barr declared a federal law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska after visiting rural Native villages in June 2019;
- WHEREAS:** The federal response may be short-term and, therefore, needs to be augmented by long-term state measures.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention thanks U.S. Attorney General Barr for issuing the historic emergency declaration, and urges continued federal attention and response to the public safety crisis in rural Alaska for at least the next decade; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention respectfully request the State of Alaska respond to U.S. Attorney General Barr's emergency federal declaration by declaring a corresponding state emergency, providing law enforcement in every community in Alaska, and uphold its constitutional responsibilities for public safety to all Alaskans.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: SEND TO FLOOR  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-3

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF ILLEGAL DRUGS AND ALCOHOL IN ALASKA VIA SMALL PLANE AND FERRY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** little or no screening of cargo or passengers takes place for Alaska Marine Highway, small plane, or other vessel passengers for the presence of illegal drugs and alcohol intended for distribution; and
- WHEREAS:** local municipal and Tribal law enforcement officers and Village Public Safety Officers lack the resources to effectively stem the tide of drugs into their community once they arrive via ferry, small plane, or other vessel; and
- WHEREAS:** the State of Alaska and the federal United States government has a responsibility to the people and communities of Alaska to take effective measures to curb the drug epidemic, especially when it involves transportation of drugs and alcohol between communities and between states.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention requests that the State of Alaska and United States government contribute mandatory resources to work collaboratively with federal authorities to implement a comprehensive system to screen cargo and passengers of Alaska Marine Highway ferries, small planes and other marine vessels for the presence of illegal drugs intended for distribution.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-4

- TITLE:** URGING CONGRESS TO PROVIDE AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY FOR TRIBES, TRIBAL ENTITIES AND ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS INTO THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM (FEHB)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** the Affordable Care Act is limited in that it only allows Tribes and ANCSA Corporations carrying out programs under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to purchase Federal Employee Health Benefits coverage for their employees; and
- WHEREAS:** Such limitation unduly restricts certain Tribes and Alaska Native corporations from participating in the FEHB Program simply because such entity does not currently carry out an ISDEAA contract; and
- WHEREAS:** Requiring ISDEAA contracts creates instability for current Tribal and Alaska Native corporations that are enrolled in the FEHB Program who may not have an ISDEAA contract in the future; and
- WHEREAS:** If Congress passed a law allowing Tribes, Tribal Entities, and Alaska Native corporations automatic eligibility into the FEHB Program, such a law would significantly alleviate unnecessary and burdensome regulatory procedures to enter the FEHB Program and would serve a core purpose of ANCSA, which is to address the “real economic and social needs” of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Under ANCSA, Alaska Native corporations are considered socially and economically disadvantaged for purposes of government contracting in order to overcome economic development barriers and benefit entire communities and regions of economically and socially disadvantaged people; and

WHEREAS: Automatic eligibility into the FEHB Program would provide Tribes, Tribal Entities, and Alaska Native corporations an additional way to overcome social and economic barriers and ultimately better serve Alaska Native people and communities; and

WHEREAS: The rising costs of health insurance is negatively impacting Tribes and ANCSA Corporations ability to recruit and retain talent; and

WHEREAS: The cost of healthcare and health insurance continues to rise negatively impacting ANCSA corporations' profitability and ability to provide benefits to its Shareholders and serve government customers; and

WHEREAS: Oftentimes ANCSA corporation employees are embedded at government contractor worksites working alongside federal government employees who receive FEHB Program benefits; and

WHEREAS: ANCSA corporations participating in government contracting lose employees to the government, many times due to the benefits package the government offers through the FEHB Program; and

WHEREAS: ANCSA Corporations lose valuable employees to larger government contractors with more robust health benefits due to the size of these large businesses; and

WHEREAS: Small ANCSA corporations often are limited in health benefits options for their employees thereby creating a significant disadvantage when competing for talented employees who ultimately perform services for the government; and

WHEREAS: Allowing ANCSA corporations to be automatically eligible for FEHB would provide a viable option for a robust and meaningful health benefits program while serving government customers and providing economic development opportunities to Alaska Native Corporations; and

WHEREAS: Allowing automatic FEHB eligibility would be mutually beneficial because Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations would be more competitive providing the best value at a lower cost to the government through proposal pricing and employee retention, while Alaska Native people and communities would benefit because Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations would be able to maintain or increase profitability due to the lower costs due to participation in the FEHB Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Alaska Congressional Delegation to include language to allow those Tribes, Tribal Entities, Alaska Native Regional, Urban and Village corporations that are

not eligible to be automatically eligible to purchase Federal Employee Health Benefits coverage for any employees regardless of whether such entity is carrying out an ISDEAA contract.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-5

- TITLE:** LACK OF VETERINARY CARE IS AN UNMET PUBLIC HEALTH NEED IN RURAL ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The proper handling, treatment and use and care of animals, particularly dogs are important features in our cultural/traditional lifestyle; and
- WHEREAS:** There is currently no regular access to veterinary care in most of rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** This lack of access to veterinary care has created an ongoing and unrecognized threat to both animal and public health; and
- WHEREAS:** Access to adequate healthcare represents an important trust responsibility between the federal government and the tribes of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Alaska Native people live in fear of rabies exposure and dog-bites to children. Zoonotic disease, parasites, Parvo, Distemper and over populations of stray dogs can be controlled with adequate veterinary service; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native people understand that their health and wellbeing is impacted by the health of the animals they keep; and
- WHEREAS:** The interdependence and inseparable nature of Human, animal, and environmental health has always been a central theme of Indigenous Worldview; and
- WHEREAS:** The current Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners has been ineffective in providing or promoting access to animal health care in Rural Alaska and is often-times a barrier.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention officially declares access to veterinary care as an unmet public healthcare need in Alaska Native Communities.

BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2019 Annual AFN Convention declare that this unmet public healthcare need be addressed through multiple avenues including the creation and implementation of a tribally run State Board of Veterinary Examiners of a rural veterinary board to address the unmet needs of animal health and in providing or promoting access to this much needed public health service in Rural Alaska.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY AND NENANA NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-6

- TITLE:** STATE SUPPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska needs to ensure rural families have access to behavioral health services without unnecessary barriers and long wait times; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska needs residential treatment centers located throughout the state that are capable of meeting treatment needs for both adults and children, and to ensure that individuals have adequate aftercare services at the time of discharge; and
- WHEREAS:** The State needs to ensure that the treatment centers have adequate staffing and providers who are trained to support patients' mental health needs; and
- WHEREAS:** The State must ensure adequate funding is provided to rural Alaska to ensure that behavioral health needs for residents are being met, that residents do not have to leave their villages, and that they have access to clinicians who reside in their communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The State needs to fund increased clinical providers in hospital settings, clinics, and schools throughout Alaska that can adequately respond to behavioral health issues; and
- WHEREAS:** Managed by the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) provides emergency and court-ordered inpatient psychiatric services in a safe environment using culturally-sensitive, effective, person-centered treatment followed by a referral to an appropriate level of care and support for recovery from mental illness, addiction; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska needs to have a behavioral health system that is not in crisis and guarantees that it is meeting the needs of residents; a system that allows adults and children to receive treatment in their State and not have to seek

treatment from out-of-state providers; a system that is diverse and allows the growth for more providers in rural Alaska.

WHEREAS: Medicaid services provided by the Alaska Tribal Health System to Alaska Native/American Indian people are reimbursed to the state at 100% FMAP requirements. These services are completely budget neutral to the state and reduces uncompensated care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention advocate for the State of Alaska to fully support the Alaska Psychiatric Institute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate for the tribal health organizations to establish rural and tribal behavioral health programs with State and federal funding developed in collaboration with each community; and restore funding cuts to Community Behavioral Health Grants and approve the use of already established cultural facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN acknowledges that Alaska has the highest rate of suicide and advocate for the State to provide reimbursement to regional health and social service organizations that provide temporary behavioral health services until such time as a bed at API can be secured and/or new regional treatment centers can be opened and placements at API and other facilities are made available in rural communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN Advocate for the State of Alaska to support Medicaid payment for behavioral health services provided through the Alaska Tribal Health System, especially in rural communities.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-7

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR A DEDICATED TRIBAL SET-ASIDE IN THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) FUND
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to provide tribal-specific responses and services with federal and state resources; 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:** the Crime Victims Fund, administered by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within DOJ's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), was initially established to address the need for victim services programs, and to assist tribal, state, and local governments in providing appropriate services to their communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress passed the Victims of Crimes Act more than thirty years ago and did not include Indian tribes in the original distribution of funds; and
- WHEREAS:** the Fund is financed by collections of fines, penalty assessments, and bond forfeitures from defendants convicted of Federal crimes, but until now, tribes have only been eligible to receive a very small portion of the discretionary funding from the Fund; and
- WHEREAS:** in FY 2000, Congress began limiting the amount of Fund deposits that could be obligated each year. This was to provide a stable level of funding available for these programs in future years despite annual fluctuations in Fund deposits; and
- WHEREAS:** in 2019 and as a result the Fund now holds balances in excess of \$10 billion under the current spending cap to last 12 years; and
- WHEREAS:** OVC and OJP officials have recognized the great need to strengthen victims' services on tribal lands and, thus, are proposing this new set-aside to help meet that need; and National Congress of American Indians at the 2014 Mid-Year

Session passed Resolution ANC-14-048 called for a tribal set aside for direct funding to tribes; and

WHEREAS: for the first time ever a tribal set-aside was established in 2018 in the amount of 3%, and 5% for 2019;

WHEREAS: the new tribal funding is requested as part of OVC's Vision 21 Initiative, a strategic planning initiative based on an 18-month national assessment by OJP that systematically engaged the crime victim advocacy field and other stakeholder groups in assessing current and emerging challenges and opportunities facing the field; and

WHEREAS: Indian nations and tribal service providers require essential resources to respond to violence perpetrated against American Indian and Alaska Native women, as well as to provide services to women victims seeking assistance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention hereby support the increase in the amount of money released from the Crime Victim's Fund to include a dedicated funding stream for Alaska Natives and American Indian tribes to meet the dire needs of tribal victims; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AFN does hereby support the creation of an "above the cap" reserve in the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), or alternatively, a 5% VOCA tribal set-aside, that would fund tribes and tribal government programs according to their laws, customs and traditions and non-profit, non-governmental tribal organizations, located within the jurisdictional boundaries of an Indian reservation, Alaska Native Villages, and Indian areas that provide services to Native women victimized by domestic and/or sexual violence.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-8

- TITLE:** CALLING UPON THE INHERENT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE, FEDERAL, and LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DISPROPORTIONALLY HIGH RATES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** the special government-to-government relationship between the federal and tribal governments set forth in the United States Constitution was reaffirmed in a historic 1994 Memorandum by President Bill Clinton, who called upon all heads of departments to administer activities affecting Native communities “in a knowledgeable, sensitive manner respectful of tribal sovereignty,” and with “[consultation] of Tribal governments prior to taking action . . . all such consultations are to be open and candid so that all interested parties may evaluate for themselves the potential impact of relevant proposals;” and
- WHEREAS:** on account of systemic oppression and institutional racism, Indigenous people in the United States are subject to disproportionately high rates of structural violence, homelessness, poverty, income inequality, death, and poor health and education outcomes, including barriers to employment, education, housing, health and mental health treatment, social services, and judicial services; and
- WHEREAS:** federal relocation and termination policies forced Indigenous people from their traditional lands into urban areas, resulting in separation from family, clan, community, cultural institutions, and sacred sites; and
- WHEREAS:** a lack of recognition and awareness of these issues, through the perpetuation of colonialism, has led to historical and intergenerational trauma that continues to adversely affect Indigenous individuals, families, and communities; and
- WHEREAS:** a recent study found that four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls experience violence in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS: a recent study further found that in some places, American Indian and Alaska Native women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS: according to the Violent Death Reporting System, Alaska Natives and American Indians made up 29.1 % of the homicide victims in Alaska between 2003 and 2008, with the 20-29 age group seeing the largest number of murders—22.1%. In addition, during that time period Alaska Native and American Indian women represented 38% of the overall deaths, with a firearm being the number one cause killing our women—29%. Moreover, most of the deaths were non-domestic violence relate—86.1%; and

WHEREAS: there is a strong indication that underreporting and racial misclassification have resulted in poor data about these missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIW); and

WHEREAS: no data has been collected and publicly released on rates of violence among American Indian and Alaska Native women living in urban areas, even though approximately 71% of American Indians and Alaska Natives live in urban areas; and

WHEREAS: the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI), a tribal epidemiology center located in Seattle and a division of the Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB), conducted a study that was the first national attempt aimed at assessing the number of cases of MMIW across 71 cities in the United States and found Anchorage to be one of the cities with the highest number of MMIW cases among the study area; and

WHEREAS: the same MMIW study revealed the severe lack of quality data and accessibility of data on violence against Native communities including racial misclassification and inconsistent data collection and reporting practices among law enforcement agencies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the state, federal, and local governments to build upon the historic emergency law enforcement declaration in rural Alaska issued by U.S. Attorney General William Barr in June 2019 to determine—in consultation and collaboration with the Alaska Native community—how to increase criminal justice protection and identify resources for reporting and identifying MMIW; and

Be it further resolved, that tribal governments be notified and periodically apprised of its tribal citizens who are missing and murdered and violence against our women; similar to how the State notifies tribes similar to ICWA

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such consultation and collaboration shall be conducted pursuant to the federal/tribal government-to-government relationship, which the State of Alaska and local governments should follow; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the media recognize victims of murder and their families deserve respectful representation, absent of victim shaming which shifts blame away from the perpetrator, and creates a targeted class, and can poison a potential jury pool; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention request an update to be presented at the 2020 Annual AFN convention on the progress of identifying and addressing disproportionately high rate of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the state, federal, and local Alaska governments to immediately create a 1-800 statewide phone number to log all missing person's cases with pertinent information; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that information collected through the new 1-800 number be inserted into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and National Missing Unidentified Persons System (NaMus) with established protocols no later than 72 hours from receiving the report and any information about tribal status shall be collected and provided to the tribal government.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-9

- TITLE:** CALLING UPON CONGRESS TO PROMPTLY TO ENACT “THE ALASKA TRIBAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMPOWERMENT ACT” LEGISLATION RECOGNIZING THE JURISDICTION OF ALL TRIBAL NATIONS IN ALASKA TO PROSECUTE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, AND RELATED CRIMES IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to provide tribal-specific responses and services with federal and state resources; 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:** domestic violence rates in Alaska are ten times the national average, sexual assaults against Alaska Native women are 12 times the national average, and many offenders are non-Native; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women are over-represented by 250 percent among domestic violence victims, considering that Alaska Natives comprise just 19 percent of the state population; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women are 47 percent of reported rape victims and every 18 hours an Alaska Native woman is sexually assaulted; and
- WHEREAS:** one out of every four Alaska Native youth suffers post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) due to childhood exposure to violence – the same rate as Afghanistan War veterans; and
- WHEREAS:** the suicide rate in rural Alaska is six times the national rate, alcohol-related mortality rate is 3.5 times the national rate, and 95 percent of rural crimes are alcohol related; and
- WHEREAS:** state-based law enforcement is virtually nonexistent in most Alaska Native villages, tribal and urban communities, because state troopers are only present in hub cities, and state-funded Village Public Safety Officers are only present in 42 out of 229 Alaska Native villages; and
- WHEREAS:** the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act resulted in confusion regarding tribal jurisdiction in Alaska, while concurrent with the State of Alaska, and most

crimes do not occur on the few remaining lands that constitute the definition of “Indian country” under federal law (i.e., allotments, townsite lots, and trust lands); and

WHEREAS: effective tribal jurisdiction in rural Alaska has been further eroded by absent or gravely insufficient resources for tribal nations in Public Law 280 States for tribal justice responses, including but not limited to tribal law enforcement and tribal courts; and

WHEREAS: the Supreme Court in *Alaska v. Native Village of Venetie* held that lands conveyed to Native corporations under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act do not qualify as “Indian country” under federal law; and

WHEREAS: the 2013 Indian Law and Order Commission found that “Alaska Department of Public Safety (ADPS) officers have primary responsibility for law enforcement in rural Alaska, but ADPS provides for only 1.0-1.4 field officers per million acres.” Without a strong law enforcement presence, crime in Alaska Native villages occurs with impunity; and

WHEREAS: the 2013 Indian Law and Order Commission report states: “The strongly centralized law enforcement and justice systems of the State of Alaska...do not serve local and Native communities adequately, if at all. The Commission believes that devolving authority to Alaska Native communities is essential for addressing local crime. Their governments are best positioned to effectively arrest, prosecute, and punish, and they should have the authority to do so – or to work out voluntary agreements with each other, and with local governments and the State on mutually beneficial terms”; and

WHEREAS: on June 28th, 2019, U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr declared a law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska under the Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance recognizing that Alaska has the highest per capita crime rate in the country and the unique circumstances of Alaska’s geographical and jurisdictional landscape, the Attorney General authorized additional funding and several long-term measures to support village public safety and victim services; and

WHEREAS: to take full advantage of this unprecedented emergency declaration of public safety in rural Alaska, loopholes in tribal jurisdiction in rural Alaska must be closed and tribal jurisdiction legally corrected to apply to all persons, Native and non-Native alike; and

WHEREAS: most federal jurisdictional, data gathering and other public safety laws reference application of the laws to a tribal nation’s “Indian country,” which applies to only 1 out of the 229 tribes in Alaska because of the complicated jurisdictional landscape, which effectively leaves out tribal nations in Alaska and their communities; and

WHEREAS: the Department of Justice has found that one in three Native women is sexually assaulted in her lifetime and that 70 percent of reported assaults are committed by non-Native men against Native women. A community response to domestic and family violence is necessary because domestic and family violence crimes and incidents impact the community as a whole. These crimes redirect Tribal resources – whether personnel, financial, public safety or other resources – elsewhere and require an immediate response. As a result of this impact on Tribal resources, it is necessary to address domestic and family violence to the fullest extent permitted by laws existing now or as may be adopted or amended in the future and we call on such an immediate amendment; and

WHEREAS: tribal nations in Alaska want to work in collaboration with state and federal authorities to best exercise effective concurrent tribal, federal, and state jurisdiction in response to crimes; and

WHEREAS: in 2019 the House, at the request of Congressman Don Young (AK-R), included an amendment to the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 1585) which would authorize certain villages to exercise criminal jurisdiction over certain domestic and sexual violence-related offenses against all persons present within an Alaska Native village; and

WHEREAS: the population of more than 100 Alaska Native villages is 70 percent or more Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS: recognizing tribal territorial jurisdiction in Alaska over all persons continues the United States' commitment to maximizing tribal self-determination and self-governance and addressing dangerous public safety concerns in Alaska and Section 901 of VAWA 2005 includes the dire need to improve the safety of Native women and to increase the provision to Indian tribes of criminal justice and victim services resources that respond to violence against Indian women, as well as to fulfill the "Federal trust responsibility to assist tribal governments in safeguarding the lives of Indian women"; and

WHEREAS: Article 22 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires countries to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy full protection against all forms of violence and discrimination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon Congress to promptly enact "The Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act":

1. the urgent public safety crisis in Alaska Native communities, specifically in connection with matters concerning domestic and dating violence, sex trafficking, sexual violence, stalking, obstruction of justice, and assault upon law enforcement and corrections officers (all as listed in H.R. 1585), and drug-, alcohol- and child-abuse-related offenses; and

2. the concurrent criminal and civil territorial jurisdiction of federally recognized tribal nations in Alaska over all lands and persons within Alaska Native villages; and
3. such jurisdiction either to be automatic for any village having at least 70 percent Alaska Native population or to be recognized on an expedited pilot project basis of no fewer than five Tribes per year for the next 10 years with resources and structure similar to the 903 provisions of VAWA 2013.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY AND TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-11

- TITLE:** MEDICAID: MEDICAID EXPANSION AS AN ADVOCACY PRIORITY FOR AFN
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives and the Alaska Tribal Health System rely on Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion to fulfill vital health services across the state; and
- WHEREAS:** Medicaid Expansion has proven to be good for the Alaskan economy and Alaskans, with over thirty thousand Alaskans, a substantial percentage of which are Alaska Native, obtaining access to health care through Medicaid Expansion and hundreds of businesses being reimbursed through Medicaid; and
- WHEREAS:** Medicaid expenditures for services provided by or referred by a Tribal health provider is 100% reimbursable through the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) provided by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), meaning the State's General Fund is fully reimbursed for services rendered to Alaska Native beneficiaries within the tribal health system; and
- WHEREAS:** Congressional appropriations for the Indian Health Services is significantly underfunded, Medicaid plays a critical role in filling in the massive shortfall, covering more than one in four adult Alaska Natives and half of Alaska Native children; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives and rural Alaskans, are more likely to live in areas with limited job opportunities and other barriers to employment and work requirements don't account for the critical jobs within the subsistence economies of rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** to date, an overall increase of 18.3% in the State's Medicaid Transportation Expenditures from FY 2016 to FY 2017, the portion paid with State General Funds actually decreased by 69.3%; this equates to a savings to the State of tens of millions in General Fund expenditures; and

WHEREAS: Medicaid Expansion allows for increased timely and localized health services to Alaskans deserve access to health care; and

WHEREAS: Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion support the hotel and airline industry and contribute to significant economic impacts including 4,000 jobs, \$230 million in additional labor income, and \$510 million in economic output brought to the State; and

WHEREAS: Governor Dunleavy vetoed \$77 million from Medicaid services in addition to \$80 million cut by the Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS: Governor Dunleavy has announced that his Administration seeks to convert Medicaid into a block grant, which would have significant adverse impacts on the healthcare of Alaskans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention to prioritize continued Medicaid expansion for all mandatory coverage groups, including expansion of adults; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives will advocate against the implementation of Medicaid work requirements.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-12

- TITLE:** CALLING ON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO AMEND GRANT APPLICATIONS TO REFLECT ALASKAN REALITY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** the United States Department of Justice offers several granting opportunities to tribes for law enforcement and victims services, including: Community Oriented Policing, Tribal Access Program, and the Office of Victims of Crime; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaskan Tribes are in dire need of these federal dollars for public safety and victims services, so much so that U.S. Attorney General William Barr declared a public safety emergency in Rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** due to the unique nature of Alaska’s tribal government structure, application for Department of Justice grants is challenging; and
- WHEREAS:** there is a need for advocacy within the Department of Justice to ensure Alaska Tribes will be eligible for grants ; and
- WHEREAS:** the majority of current Department of Justice grant solicitations do not allow tribal consortiums to apply on behalf of tribes; and
- WHEREAS:** the funding caps in Department of Justice grant solicitations do not fit the need and high cost of living in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** the allowable/unallowable costs under these programs do not reflect Alaska specific needs such as the need for law enforcement travel costs for escorting victims to child advocacy centers and/or hospital for forensic interviewing and exams; the need for law enforcement to assist in response to child welfare investigations for safety of tribal social services staff; the need to assist state law enforcement in promptly responding to crime scenes to secure evidence; the need to provide shelter services in hub communities due to the logistics of the criminal justice system in Alaska; the need to include search and rescue as a

public safety service, the need for culturally relevant healing activities utilizing Tribal Elders; the need to address generational trauma as a type of victimization.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention will work to educate the Department of Justice on the unique needs and differences of Alaska Tribes in responding to rural Alaska public safety needs and issues, as well as inform them on the accurate financial needs of Alaska Tribes to be able to address these issues and implement public safety programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN shall advocate for grant solicitations to be amended to prevent Alaska Tribes from being excluded from grant opportunities and promote a process of identifying special considerations for Alaska Tribal grant applicants prior to grant award selections.



Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-13

- TITLE:** STOPPING THE SILENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THE IMPACT ON ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to provide tribal-specific responses and services with federal and state resources; 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:** sexual assaults against Alaska Native women are 12 times the national average, and many offenders are non-Native; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women are over-represented by 250 percent among domestic violence victims, considering that Alaska Natives comprise just 19 percent of the state population; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women are 47 percent of reported rape victims and every 18 hours an Alaska Native woman is sexually assaulted; and
- WHEREAS:** sexual assault is not the victim's fault, it has contributed to the high suicide rate in Alaska Native populations, the alcohol and drug epidemic within Alaska Native populations; and
- WHEREAS:** lack of resources such as Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) and forensic response, creates an environment of no ability for valid evidence collection; and
- WHEREAS:** state-based law enforcement is virtually nonexistent in most Alaska Native villages because state troopers are only present in hub cities, and state-funded Village Public Safety Officers are only present in 42 out of 229 Alaska Native villages; and
- WHEREAS:** the 2013 Indian Law and Order Commission found that "Alaska Department of Public Safety (ADPS) officers have primary responsibility for law enforcement in rural Alaska, but ADPS provides for only 1.0-1.4 field officers per million acres." Without a strong law enforcement presence, crime in Alaska Native villages occurs with impunity; and

WHEREAS: the 2013 Indian Law and Order Commission report states: “The strongly centralized law enforcement and justice systems of the State of Alaska...do not serve local and Native communities adequately, if at all. The Commission believes that devolving authority to Alaska Native communities is essential for addressing local crime. Their governments are best positioned to effectively arrest, prosecute, and punish, and they should have the authority to do so – or to work out voluntary agreements with each other, and with local governments and the State on mutually beneficial terms”; and

WHEREAS: on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr declared a law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska under the Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance recognizing that Alaska has the highest per capita crime rate in the country and the unique circumstances of Alaska’s geographical and jurisdictional landscape, the Attorney General authorized additional funding and several long-term measures to support village public safety and victim services; and

WHEREAS: to take full advantage of this unprecedented emergency declaration of public safety in rural Alaska, loopholes in tribal jurisdiction in rural Alaska must be closed and tribal jurisdiction legally corrected to apply to all persons, Native and non-Native alike; and

WHEREAS: most federal jurisdictional, data gathering and other public safety laws reference application of the laws to a tribal nation’s “Indian country,” which applies to only 1 out of the 229 tribes in Alaska because of the complicated jurisdictional landscape, which effectively leaves out tribal nations in Alaska and their communities, and

WHEREAS: the Department of Justice has found that one in three Native women is sexually assaulted in her lifetime and that 70 percent of reported assaults are committed by non-Native men against Native women. A community response to domestic and family violence is necessary because domestic and family violence crimes and incidents impact the community as a whole. These crimes redirect Tribal resources – whether personnel, financial, public safety or other resources – elsewhere and require an immediate response. As a result of this impact on Tribal resources, it is necessary to address domestic and family violence to the fullest extent permitted by laws existing now or as may be adopted or amended in the future and we call on such an immediate amendment; and

WHEREAS: tribal nations in Alaska want to work in collaboration with state and federal authorities to best exercise effective concurrent tribal, federal, and state jurisdiction in response to crimes; and

WHEREAS: recognizing tribal territorial jurisdiction in Alaska over all persons continues the United States’ commitment to maximizing tribal self-determination and self-governance and addressing dangerous public safety concerns in Alaska and Section 901 of VAWA 2005 includes the dire need to improve the safety of

Native women and to increase the provision to Indian tribes of criminal justice and victim services resources that respond to violence against Indian women, as well as to fulfill the “Federal trust responsibility to assist tribal governments in safeguarding the lives of Indian women”; and

WHEREAS: Article 22 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires countries to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy full protection against all forms of violence and discrimination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention call upon Congress and the State of Alaska to make processing of rape kits in a timely manner a priority, assist tribal communities in their efforts to ban perpetrators from communities; prosecution of sex offender and sex traffickers as a priority; and make sexual assault training for counselor’s, teachers, school staff, health workers a mandatory requirement.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Judicial System needs to be bolstered. This includes the capacity of the District Attorney’s Office to prosecute these cases and the ability of the Public Defender Agency and other defense agencies to do their parts. This will ensure due process for both the victims and the defendants. Funding for prosecutors, publicly funded defense attorneys and the infrastructure of the court system must be increased to an adequate level to achieve the purposes of this resolution.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: ANVIK TRIBAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-14

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH OUTPATIENT HOUSING IN RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** on December 18, 1971, Congress passed the Public Law 92-203 titled the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. With the enactment of ANCSA, Village and Regional Corporations were added to the network of Native organizations addressing Native needs economically having political implications for Alaska Native self-governance; and
- WHEREAS:** the Department of the Interior, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and all federal agencies shall hereafter consult with the Alaska Native Corporations on the same basis as Indian tribes under Executive Order No. 13175; and
- WHEREAS:** the United States Department of Commerce acknowledges the policy commitments of the U.S Congress and the Chief Executive as precedence; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA Village Corporations have the task of improving the social and economic status of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** For example, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel administers healthcare throughout 58 rural communities and administers delivery system and outpatient housing in Qavartarvik Hostel which is part of the Travel Management Center; and
- WHEREAS:** the village outpatients traveling to Bethel Hospital are placed in Bethel motels when Qavartarvik Hostel rooms are unavailable, where there is no adequate

sanitation or shower and experience sleeplessness due to the intoxicated people making noise.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Indian Health Services and Congress to support and advocate for the development of the regional health outpatient housing in rural Alaska such as the Qavartarvik Hostel in Bethel, Alaska.



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

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: NAPASKIAK VILLAGE CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-15

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING NEEDS IN RURAL ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** on December 18, 1971, Congress passed the Public Law 92-203 titled the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. With the enactment of ANCSA, Village and Regional Corporations were added to the network of Native organizations addressing Native needs economically having political implications for Alaska Native self-governance; and
- WHEREAS:** the Department of the Interior, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and all federal agencies shall hereafter consult with Alaska Native Corporations on the same basis as Indian tribes under Executive Order No. 13175; and
- WHEREAS:** the United States Department of Commerce acknowledges the policy commitments of the U.S. Congress and the Chief Executive as precedence; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA Village Corporations have the task of improving the social and economic status of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) supports to provide critically needed technical assistance to distressed communities with populations under 40,000, including those located in Opportunity Zones and communities struggling to recover from natural disasters; and
- WHEREAS:** the technical assistance provided to these communities will help local planners deploy a variety of federal resources to stimulate job growth and economic recovery for the benefit of their citizens, and affordable housing in distressed communities; and

WHEREAS: for example, a large number of communities in the Calista Region are among the distressed community status based on the residents minimum wage classified by the Denali Commission; and

WHEREAS: the Calista Regional communities have the highest unemployment with its growing population, with the highest cost of utility and fuel rates making it unaffordable for the low income and unemployed in need of homes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Department of Housing and Urban Development to consult with tribes, tribal designated housing entities, and Alaska Natives organizations on the housing needs in rural Alaska and increase its outreach to rural communities and low income residents on the programs and services that are available through HUD.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: NAPASKIAK VILLAGE CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-16

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION TO RAISE AWARENESS AND GAIN SUPPORT TO BACKHAUL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE OUT OF RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES AND TO RESPONSIBLY RECYCLE THEM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** all communities produce waste such as spent batteries and electronics which can be hazardous to human health and the environment when they are improperly disposed of and subsequently deteriorated; and
- WHEREAS:** there are no safe ways to discard household hazardous waste in rural landfills, as rural Class III landfills are unlined, often unpermitted, and the infrastructure is not designed to prevent contaminant release into the surrounding water, land, and air; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN represents a group of people who are intimately tied to the land through year-round subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering, and whose subsistence activities provide a physical, mental, and spiritual connection to the land; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska communities do not have, and cannot afford to construct, the storage infrastructure to separate and keep these wastes indefinitely; and
- WHEREAS:** because communities cannot indefinitely store these wastes, they must transport them to recyclers, employing the act of backhauling, or the hauling back, of wastes; and
- WHEREAS:** rural Alaska communities are small, remote, have relatively little economic base and are unable on their own to afford the full cost of waste management, transport, and recycling required to backhaul these wastes to recycling companies; and
- WHEREAS:** substantial waste management and backhaul expertise is available in some individual communities and working models for regionally-coordinated efforts exist, backhaul Alaska, a statewide coordination program, is in pilot phase and

through that program the knowledge needed to efficiently, and sustainably provide safe backhaul opportunities to all our rural communities exists, but to do so successfully will require political will and support in developing the effort.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention will advocate for better management of these wastes that pose serious risks to our health and subsistence way of life when hazardous waste is discarded in rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN will urge local, state, federal, and private partners to join us in supporting household hazardous waste backhaul programs and projects that can safely collect, store, transport, and recycle these wastes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is recommended that AFN will form a rural waste backhaul subcommittee to explore potential avenues in which AFN member organizations can contribute to safe and affordable backhaul of these wastes.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-17

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY TO REVERSE THE RATE INCREASES AT THE ALASKA PIONEER HOMES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Pioneer Homes are state-operated assisted living facilities for older Alaskans, in six locations around the state; and
- WHEREAS:** Although state subsidized, they have always charged fees ranging from about \$2,600 per month to nearly \$7,000 per month depending on the level of care required; however, the actual payments are based on ability to pay with residents expected to pay as much as possible from their own resources; and
- WHEREAS:** Governor Dunleavy's Administration, in an attempt to recover the full costs of providing services, recently announced a dramatic increase in rates ranging from a 40% increase to a 120% increase, depending on the class of care, with the highest rates topping out at \$15,000 per month; the rate increases were scheduled to take effect September 1; and
- WHEREAS:** It is unclear the rate increase will actually save the state money, as it may simply drive people who have more resources and options out of the Pioneer Homes, leaving it for people who have to be fully subsidized by the state or federal governments; and
- WHEREAS:** The large increase imposed all at once is extremely unfair to retirees who may have carefully planned their long-term assisted living care based on the prior system, and adversely impact their health by forcing them out of the facilities and increasing stress; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska House passed HB 96 which would reverse the rate increases, but it

has not passed the Senate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Dunleavy Administration to reverse its decision on Pioneer Home rates and revert to the prior monthly rates and urge the Legislature to solidify our elders safety and security through a permanent statutory fix to subsidize the care of our most honored citizens.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-18

- TITLE:** FULLY FUNDED PUBLIC SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Article 3 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, proclaims: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”; and
- WHEREAS:** Public safety is a basic need of communities in Rural Alaska, including protection from the elements, security of the person and property, freedom of fear, existence of law and order, control of harmful substances, access to emergency resources, and stability; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and Tribal members in Rural Alaska have experienced significant hardship from the widespread unavailability or underprovision of public safety services in their communities compared to other areas of Alaska and the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** There is a public safety crisis in Rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** A need has been identified for public safety buildings in rural Alaska to be repaired, replaced, or constructed; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress passed Public Law 83-280 in 1953 mandating that the allocation of civil and criminal jurisdiction enjoyed by the federal government over Native peoples in Alaska shall pass to the state government; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress additionally enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971 extinguishing our Tribes’ aboriginal title to their land and eliminating territorial jurisdiction as a basis for our Tribes to levy taxes or engage in other land-based revenue regimes; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska is now primarily responsible for ensuring public safety services are provided to villages of Rural Alaska through the Department of Public Safety (DPS); and

WHEREAS: Tribes in Rural Alaska deserve the same resources, authority, and protections afforded to Tribes in the Lower 48 to provide law enforcement in their communities; and

WHEREAS: Tribal communities in the State of Alaska deserve the same standard of public safety provided to those on the road system and other communities around the State; and

WHEREAS: Adequate public safety infrastructure, including holding facilities, public safety office space, and public safety officer housing, is necessary for public safety in Rural Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls on the United States Department of the Interior and the State of Alaska to each fulfill their obligations to Alaska Native Tribes and communities in Rural Alaska by adequately and equitably resourcing public safety infrastructure in Tribal communities in Rural Alaska.



Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-19

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER WORKING GROUP
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** There is a public safety crisis in Rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and a Borough operate the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program in communities in Rural Alaska through a contract with the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** In May 2018, the tribal contractors and the State of Alaska engaged in a Statewide VPSO meeting; and
- WHEREAS:** At the conclusion of that meeting, the VPSO tribal contractors and the State of Alaska agreed on a strategy with five components:
1. Improving communication through better branding, community engagement, and strengthening and building partnerships at all levels;
  2. Making a VPSO available in every community;
  3. Giving Tribal contractors the flexibility needed to provide public safety in a way that works for each individual region;
  4. Ensuring adequate funding for all Program needs;
  5. Defining the VPSO's role and responsibilities; and
- WHEREAS:** Instead of following the 2018 Strategic Plan, in 2019 the State of Alaska's Office of the Governor slashed the VPSO Program's budget and declined to give tribal contractors the flexibility they need; and
- WHEREAS:** the Alaska State Legislature has created a Village Public Safety Officer Working Group to provide substantive policy recommendations related to the VPSO Program for submittal to the Alaska Legislature no later than January 31, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention is in full support of the Alaska State Legislature VPSO Working Group and call on DPS to engage in strategic planning session.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls on the Alaska State Legislature to seek and consider the input of Alaska Tribes/Tribal entities that provide public safety services in their communities in its recommendations.



Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-20

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALASKA TRIBAL CHILD WELFARE COMPACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The experience in Alaska is that as tribes and tribal organizations acquire resources to more completely fulfill this inherent authority, the number of Indian children who become subject to the Alaska Office of Children’s Services (OCS) investigations and custody actions diminishes. In addition, when tribes and tribal organizations collaborate with or take on responsibilities for OCS, the outcomes improve; and
- WHEREAS:** tribes and tribal Organizations throughout Alaska operate robust child welfare programs, which assist and support families in need and children in the custody of OCS; and
- WHEREAS:** In rural Alaska, the OCS has staff concentrated in the hub locations and maintains a presence in only a handful of villages, and in some instances on a traveling/rotation basis; and
- WHEREAS:** OCS experiences high vacancy and turnover rates, coupled with short tenures, which increases the number of cases OCS workers must carry and decreases the continuity of supervision. The recommended national standard is 12 cases per worker. However, OCS workers carry at least 16 cases: 25% more than the national standard; and
- WHEREAS:** This lack of resources impedes the state’s ability to effectively address the problem of disproportionality among Alaska’s children in state custody that has existed since statehood; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and the State of Alaska share an obligation to protect Alaska’s Native children; and

WHEREAS: Tribes and tribal organizations in Alaska form the backbone of the child welfare system, and OCS has depended for years on the tribes and tribal consortium staff to assist them in their work; and

WHEREAS: The state has recognized this fact for many years, and has tried at times to better integrate the tribal work through tribal/state collaborations; and

WHEREAS: Despite that work, there are still many administrative and systemic barriers to collaborative efforts in keeping Alaska Native children safe; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact (Compact) was signed in 2017 with overwhelming support from tribes and tribal organizations and the State; and

WHEREAS: This Compact was an enormous undertaking designed to transform the child welfare system, and pave the way for tribes and tribal organizations to provide services and support on behalf of OCS to improve the life outcomes of Alaska Native children in state custody; and

WHEREAS: Since the signing of the Compact in October 2017, the Tribal Co-Signers have committed thousands of staff hours and incurred significant expenses to negotiate detailed scopes of work to carry out the purpose of the Compact; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) supports the ongoing work of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, including the Tribal Co-Signers' ability to take on more activities through the adoption and implementation of additional scopes of work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN affirms its continued support of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls on the State of Alaska to fully implement the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, which will improve the outcomes for Alaska's children; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska legislature to enact a statute which mirrors the Indian Child Welfare Act with the purpose to circumvent potential threats to the federal statute.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-21

- TITLE:** ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD AND HISTORICAL TRAUMA IN OUR NATIVE COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Prior to European conquest and colonization, we had healthy, thriving communities in which child abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse and obesity were unheard of; and
- WHEREAS:** Through research on childhood and historical or intergenerational trauma, neuroscientists have now confirmed what Native people have always known, that the trauma caused by the near-destruction of our way of life beginning several hundred years ago continues to harm us today and is the underlying cause of many if not most of the devastating health and social problems we suffer from, including substance abuse, suicide, obesity, domestic violence, school drop-out rates, cancer, heart disease and diabetes, among others, many of which categories Native communities have the highest rates in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of the members of our communities have suffered high numbers of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). While these are ultimately the result of the breakdown of our family structure caused by the destructive effects of colonization, it will require a combined attack on both ACEs and historical trauma to enable our communities to heal, involving both preventing trauma in future generations and mediating the effects of the trauma being suffered by the present generation through resiliency programs; and

WHEREAS: Because the trauma we suffered was community-wide, it will require comprehensive, integrated, community-wide approaches to successfully achieve healing; and

WHEREAS: Fortunately there is a growing body of knowledge on approaches for helping Native communities to heal and to prevent trauma in future generations, consisting of a combination of western and traditional healing practices; and

WHEREAS: In addition, several Native communities have already launched village-wide trauma-informed initiatives; and

WHEREAS: Planning and implementing community-wide trauma-informed healing and prevention programs require resources to pay for the personnel and expertise, resources that most Native communities lack; and

WHEREAS: Given the source of the problem, it is both necessary and appropriate for the Federal government to provide the Native communities the resources they need to implement the comprehensive integrated trauma-informed approaches that are required to overcome the trauma and the devastating effects that trauma is having on our communities, as well as to prevent it in future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the Congress to enact and fully fund legislation that will provide all Native communities the resources they need to create comprehensive, integrated trauma-informed initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED calls upon the Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services to train all of its employees so they are trauma-informed and to the greatest extent permitted, direct existing resources to assist Native communities implement comprehensive, integrated trauma-informed communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon Congress to provide Native communities with greater flexibility over the use of existing Federal funds received by them so those funds can contribute effectively to the trauma-informed initiatives those communities develop; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon Congress to legislatively establish a goal of reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences suffered by the next generation in Native communities and reducing the effects of trauma on the present generation by 50% over the next ten years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives declares its commitment to join with other Alaska Native entities in a coalition to advocate for the goals set out above and to work to bring trauma-informed practices to Alaska Native communities.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION, SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE, CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIANS OF ALASKA, AND SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-22

- TITLE:** REQUEST FOR THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS TO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF THE 101 COLD CASE HOMICIDE VICTIMS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of Alaska Native organizations includes advocating for the safety and well-being of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The third leading cause of death for Alaska Natives age 15 to 24 is homicide with Alaska Natives enduring higher homicide rates than other Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS:** The fundamental duty of Alaska State Troopers is to “serve all the people; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality, and justice”; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska State Troopers posted on their Cold Case Investigation Unit (CCIU) web page that there were “101 unresolved homicide cases in Alaska that were referred to the CCIU to investigate...for killings that happened between 1961 and 2001”; and
- WHEREAS:** Police cannot solve homicides - particularly cold case homicides - by themselves, and when the public is encouraged to help them, violent crimes are solved such as the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted Fugitives (162 fugitives captured/located as a result of citizen cooperation) and America’s Most Wanted (helped catch 1,203 fugitives over the past quarter of a century); and
- WHEREAS:** Many states such as Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, and Connecticut have proactive cold case web pages which post the names, dates, locations, photographs, cards, synopses, and rewards to encourage the public to help solve cold cases with the names and contact information of the cold case detectives as well as several ways to report information; and
- WHEREAS:** When Alaskans saw that the Alaska State Troopers are not sharing even the most basic information about the 101 cold case victims such as the victims’ names, several (about 35) filed Public Information Requests under the Alaska Public

Records Act, AS 40.25.100–40.25.295 - all of which have been systematically denied by the Alaska State Troopers without sufficient (or any) explanation other than they are “currently working on updating the list” even though they have had the list of names for at least 18 years (since 2001); and

WHEREAS: Although the Alaska State Troopers refuse to provide any identifying information about any of the 101 cold case homicide victims, due to high homicide rates of Alaska Natives and due to at least one of the victims being an Alaska Native woman (Sophie Sergie, age 20, of Pitkas Point, killed on April 26, 1993 and a defendant charged on February 15, 2019 with murder in the first degree and sexual assault in the first degree), it is reasonable to postulate that more of the cold case victims are Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Alaskans have the right to know the names of the 101 cold case victims between 1961 and 2001 to see whose names are on the list so that advocacy may begin for the resolutions of these cases and so that efforts can begin to identify cold case homicide victims who names are not on the list; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention respectfully requests Governor Michael J. Dunleavy to direct the State of Alaska’s Department of Public Safety’s State Troopers to disclose the names of the 101 cold case homicide victims; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives respectfully requests Governor Michael J. Dunleavy to direct the State of Alaska’s Department of Public Safety’s State Troopers develop their web page so that it is similar to other states (for example, Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, or Connecticut) to encourage the public to step forward to provide information to assist in solving cold case homicides.



Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-23

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING S. 1703 & H.R. 3077 THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT IMPROVEMENT ACT (AHCIA) OF 2019
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** there is a lack of safe, sanitary and affordable housing across the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The AHCIA of 2019 improves the Housing Tax Credit program’s ability to serve hard-to-reach communities including rural, Native American, high-poverty, and high-cost communities, as well as extremely low-income individuals; and
- WHEREAS:** The AHCIA of 2019 can spur development of affordable housing in Alaska because it increases housing tax credit allocations by 50%, enacts a minimum 4% rate to parallel the minimum 9% rate already enacted, which enables the tax credits to better serve hard to reach communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The AHCIA encourages development in Native American communities by designating them as “Difficult To Develop Areas,” making housing developments automatically eligible for a 30% basis boost to increase the investment of Housing Credits; and
- WHEREAS:** The AHCIA provides a basic boost for developments in Native American and rural areas and there is a Native American selection criteria.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention, support S. 1703 & H.R. 3307, the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA) of 2019.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-24

- TITLE:** URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR OF ALASKA TO RESTORE FUNDING TO THE ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION'S WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Weatherization Program provides cost-effective energy improvements to homes of low-income families to reduce the operating cost to the resident, improve resident health and safety, and improve durability and longevity of housing stock; and
- WHEREAS:** The Weatherization Program has been successful in improving the health and safety of Alaskans, reducing the use of fossil fuels, reducing energy bills, improving and preserving housing stock across the state, reducing housing stock that is unsafe from carbon dioxide, mold and other health risks, creating jobs, and boosting struggling local economies; and
- WHEREAS:** The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) has simulated that the Weatherization Program has: \$863.6 million in direct, indirect and induced economic impacts; created an estimated 5,460 annual jobs; and \$319.9 million in health and safety impacts; and
- WHEREAS:** The Weatherization Program is often leveraged by RHAs with other funding to increase the number of homes being weatherized; and
- WHEREAS:** In the fiscal year 2020 capital appropriations, the State Legislature funded the AHFC Weatherization program at \$5 million; and
- WHEREAS:** Governor Dunleavy vetoed the Weatherization Program from the fiscal year 2020 capital budget; and
- WHEREAS:** With the severe housing shortage across the state, the weatherization program is vital in preserving our current housing stock across Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The CCHRC was commissioned by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to complete a Housing Needs Assessment that was completed in 2018. The study estimates 14,600 homes across Alaska have a 1-star energy rating and these homes typically use more than four times the energy of a new home built to AHFC's Energy Efficiency Standards and are in need of weatherization services; and

WHEREAS: The Weatherization Program provides for a 30%-40% savings to homeowners and in total saves Alaskans millions of dollars annually- year after year; providing a boost to local economies across the state.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor of Alaska to restore funding to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Weatherization Program.



Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-25

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WITH AN APPROPRIATION AMOUNT OF \$23 MILLION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** After being funded at \$23.1 million in 2005, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Housing Improvement Program (BIA HIP) was eliminated from the FY 2008 budget in order to fund other high priorities. The funding has since been restored, but at a lower level; and
- WHEREAS:** In FY 2018, the BIA HIP program was funded at approximately \$8 million. Alaska's demonstrated need in 2016 based on eligible applicants, exceeded \$202 million and Alaska received approximately \$1.5 million; and
- WHEREAS:** The BIA HIP serves the lowest income population and is utilized to improve the deteriorating housing stock. Categories A, B & C provides grants to repair an existing home or to purchase/construct a new home for individuals who usually cannot qualify for needed financing due to extremely low-income levels; and
- WHEREAS:** Under BIA HIP Category D, homebuyers are eligible to receive down payment assistance when they qualify for a home mortgage. This funding has been leveraged with other funding sources to make homeownership a reality for tribal members; and
- WHEREAS:** A unique benefit of being eligible for the BIA HIP program is the Indian Health Service designates BIA HIP recipients as a funding priority for water and sewer infrastructure to new and like-new housing. Being a priority for ANTHC water

and sewer projects increase the chances that homeownership can become a reality for tribal members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to support the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Housing Improvement Program (BIA HIP) with an appropriation amount of \$23 million.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-26

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS TO \$800 MILLION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA) INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT (IHBG) WITH SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR INCREASES OF \$50 MILLION PER YEAR UNTIL INFLATIONARY REDUCTIONS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) created the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) which is the primary source of funding for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure for Alaska Native and American Indian (AIAN) families; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA allocates over \$90 million each year to Alaskan Tribes and communities and is the primary vehicle for meeting critical housing needs; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) are sophisticated in leveraging funds to develop projects with multi-layered funding sources and NAHASDA is the foundation for building complex funding packages; and
- WHEREAS:** The core housing needs in Indian Country simply cannot be met adequately without support for additional funding secured for the IHBG; and
- WHEREAS:** Annual funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) authorized pursuant to NAHASDA has remained flat at around \$650 million, while housing needs and shortages continue to rapidly grow; and
- WHEREAS:** Using the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator inflation the IHBG has declined by 47%. The purchasing power of \$655 million (2019 appropriated amount) is equal to \$428 Million in 1999 dollars or, looking the other way- in 2019 dollars, the IHBG in 1999 would exceed \$1 billion (\$1.003 B); and

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

WHEREAS: Approximately half of all available IHBG funding is committed to providing operating assistance to housing units built prior to NAHASDA, units that are today more than twenty years old. Only after that funding is allocated can the remaining IHBG funding be allocated to Tribes to address unmet housing needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to authorize funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) at no less than \$800 million, with subsequent fiscal year increases of \$50 million per year until inflationary reductions have been recovered.



Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-27

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) created the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program specifically for the benefit of Alaska Native and American Indian communities to promote the wellbeing of the Native people through funding affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure and community development; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA empowers Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), also known as Regional Housing Authorities, with local decision making which enables the creation of housing programs that are specific to each region or community; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA authorized the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG), which funds housing and housing-related infrastructure and community development in American Indian and Alaska Native communities throughout the country; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA allocates approximately \$98 million each year to Alaskan Tribes and communities and is the primary vehicle for meeting critical housing needs; and
- WHEREAS:** Private sector housing construction and development in rural Alaska is almost non-existent; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the many successes with NAHASDA housing programs, American Indian and Alaska Native housing conditions remain inferior relative to almost every relative national metric, and the demand for affordable housing remains unmet in nearly every Alaskan community; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA's current authorization expired on September 30, 2013, and it is concerning that NAHASDA may be viewed as a lesser funding priority because it

remains an unauthorized program and may provide challenges for tribes that are leveraging additional funding because of the uncertainty of the program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to act swiftly to successfully reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-28

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE TRIBAL HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT VETERANS ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (TRIBAL HUD-VASH) UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS AND FOR CONGRESS TO PASS SENATE BILL S.257, THE TRIBAL HUD-VASH ACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** In January 2016, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Veterans Affairs (VA) funded the Tribal HUD-VASH demonstration program and three Regional Housing Authorities in Alaska were selected to participate in the program; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tribal HUD-VASH Program is intended to provide rental assistance, case management, and clinical support services for Native American veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and
- WHEREAS:** The Tribal HUD VASH demonstration has been successful for a number of Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities, however, there have also been many challenges encountered in implementing the demonstration program in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** HUD Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) has issued a Dear Tribal Leader Letter for consideration of expanding the program asking if selected tribes should be located near a VA medical center; and
- WHEREAS:** Most of Alaska's Tribes are not located near a VA medical center, therefore HUD should not consider this as a qualifying factor for Tribes to be eligible for the program; and
- WHEREAS:** HUD should also work with the Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Services providers to be approved counselors and to implement the use of telemedicine for the case management in our remote communities; and

WHEREAS: HUD ONAP should consider how the Tribes who are already participating in the demonstration program can benefit from increased opportunities for the unmet needs of their Native Veterans; and

WHEREAS: HUD should consider the use of Tribal HUD VASH funding to be used to increase new units for to house veterans that are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS: The United States Senate has passed S.257 to permanently establish and expand the Tribal HUD-VASH Program to more Tribes across the nation; and

WHEREAS: S.257 will address many of the challenges of the Tribal HUD VASH demonstration program such as providing waivers or specific alternatives to requirements necessary for effective delivery of the Tribal HUD VASH Program and will provide HUD and the VA the flexibility to make necessary modifications to the program after tribal consultation; and

WHEREAS: If ONAP expands the Tribal HUD VASH Program, it will provide critical case management and housing services to Native Veterans that are homeless or near homelessness; and

WHEREAS: If Congress passes the Tribal HUD VASH Act, it will provide stability to the Native Veteran families already receiving assistance under the demonstration program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention support the expansion of the Tribal Housing and Urban Development Veterans Administration Supportive Housing Program under the Office of Native American Programs.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-29

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING \$100 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA), NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT (NAHBG) COMPETITIVE FUNDING
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 and subsequently for 2019 appropriated \$100 million for competitive grants to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG); and
- WHEREAS:** The Act directed the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) “shall consider the need and administrative capacity, and shall give priority to projects that will spur construction and rehabilitation” in making awards; and
- WHEREAS:** HUD issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the NAHBG Competitive program in May of 2019 which included two years of funding totaling nearly \$200 million; and
- WHEREAS:** The NAHBG Competitive funding is the first increase to NAHASDA since its inception; and
- WHEREAS:** The NOFA incentivized new construction and immediately docks points for rehabilitation and infrastructure projects; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately half of all available NAHASDA’s-Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funding is committed to providing operating assistance to housing units built prior to NAHASDA, units that are today more than twenty years old. Only after that funding is allocated can the remaining IHBG funding be allocated to Tribes to address unmet housing needs and operating subsidies to current stock built under NAHASDA; and
- WHEREAS:** Using the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator the Indian Housing Block Grant under NAHASDA has declined by 47%. The purchasing power of \$655

million (2019 appropriated amount) is equal to \$428 Million in 1999 dollars or, looking the other way- in 2019 dollars, the IHBG in 1999 would exceed \$1 billion (\$1.003 B); and

WHEREAS: Safe, affordable, quality housing is the very foundation for sustainable, healthy communities and the underpinning of success for other Tribal programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to continue annually appropriating \$100 million for the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG) Competitive funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that applications be scored at the Regional Office and not at the Washington, D.C. Headquarters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each tribal entity has the authority to determine who qualifies for the houses once they are built.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-30

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING A LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW FOR THE INCLUSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAM FOR INDIANS PROGRAMS AND FUNDS IN INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT AGREEMENTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** the United States has a legal and moral obligation to provide for the health of Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs) as established under the U.S. Constitution, treaties, statutes, Supreme Court precedent, executive orders, and federal policies; and
- WHEREAS:** although the United States holds these solemn trust and treaty obligations, AN/AI populations continue to suffer from disproportionate incidence rates of diabetes and diabetes-related conditions that detrimentally impact the long-term health, welfare and vitality of AN/AI individuals, families, and communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) as part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Public Law 105-33, to address the disparate impact of diabetes among AN/AI populations; and
- WHEREAS:** to carry out its mission, AFN supports the advocacy of the Alaska Native Health Board on issues affecting AN/AI health and wellbeing, diabetes and related chronic conditions having particular impact and costs to the Alaska Tribal Health System, and

WHEREAS: Alaska Tribal Health System works to ensure incorporation of culture, traditions, and values in SDPI and other diabetes-related program development, research, and community-based activities according to its mission; and

WHEREAS: SDPI is set to expire on September 30, 2019, the reauthorization of the program presents an opportunity to incorporate tribal recommendations; and

WHEREAS: the reauthorization of the SDPI presents an opportunity to further strengthen the pillars of the SDPI program that have contributed to improved clinical outcomes in diabetes prevention and treatment among AN/AI populations; and

WHEREAS: AFN recommends that reauthorization legislation be amended to allow SDPI funds to be included in Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) contracts and compacts (Public Law 93-638) in order to alleviate the administrative burden associated with applying for grants, reporting, and most important to allow SDPI grantees to receive contract support cost funds in order to assist in paying the administrative costs of managing SDPI programs, which is consistent with Congress' intent under the ISDEAA to maximize tribal resources available for the delivery of healthcare programs; and

WHEREAS: currently SDPI grantees have duplicate reporting requirements associated with grants—which are already fulfilled through ISDEAA contracts and compact—and must also program at least 25% or more of their SDPI funding to cover administrative associated with managing SDPI funds. This takes valuable resources out of patient care which could be covered by the indefinite discretionary appropriation process that currently funds contract support costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN supports a legislative amendment to allow funding provided under the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to be included in Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN propose an amendment of Section 505(b) of the ISDEAA (25 U.S.C. § 5385(b)) that would add the following new subparagraph (3) to authorize the inclusion of SDPI programs and funds in ISDEAA agreements:

*(3) At the option of an Indian Tribe grants for special diabetes programs for Indians awarded to Indian tribes under Section 330C(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-3(b)(2)) shall, after award, be added to the Title I or*

*Title V funding agreements of any Indian tribe under this Act, and shall be administered and implemented in accordance with the provisions of this Act rather than the Secretary's grant regulations (including the regulations governing statutorily mandated grants codified at 42 C.F.R. Part 137, Subpart F).*



Julie Kitka  
President

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

## EDUCATION



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2019 Annual AFN Convention  
Resolution 19-31

- TITLE:** RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was signed into law in 1975; and
- WHEREAS:** when IDEA first passed Congress promised to provide states with 40% of the funding needed for educating children with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS:** the federal government's contribution has not exceeded its current contribution of 16%, leaving states and local school districts making up the additional costs needed to provide the services needed by our students with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS:** according to the National Center for Education Statistics about 13% of all public school students receive services under IDEA; and
- WHEREAS:** also according to the National Center for Education Statistics, American Indian/Alaska Native students represent the largest percentage of students ages 3-21 served under IDEA, with 17% of AI/AN students being served under IDEA compared to the 13% nationwide average, and
- WHEREAS:** in 2017 Alaska served 19,148 students ages 3-21 under IDEA; and
- WHEREAS:** according to the U.S. Department of Education, the average federal investment for each student educated through IDEA is approximately \$1,770 for fiscal year 2019; and
- WHEREAS:** according to the U.S. Department of Education, this will decline to \$1,758 in fiscal year 2020 if the program is level-funded; and
- WHEREAS:** education funding in Alaska is under threat from the current administration; and

WHEREAS: further cuts to education funding in Alaska will make providing services under IDEA even more difficult; and

WHEREAS: the Association of Alaska School Boards has a resolution supporting increased funding to fully fund the federal mandate; and

WHEREAS: the National School Boards Association also supports modernizing and fully funding IDEA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge Congress to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: QAGAN TAYAGUNGIN TRIBE

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-32

**TITLE:** PROVIDE ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS WITH HIGH QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION IN STATE

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** One of AFN's major goals is to promote and advocate for programs and systems which instill pride and confidence in individual Alaska Natives; and

**WHEREAS:** AFN strives to deliberately act to eliminate such gaps, policies, practices and structures that perpetuate inequities based on race and support the elimination of the factors that predict disparity; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native students are being affected by accreditation issues and state funding cuts to the University of Alaska higher education system; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native higher education programs and faculty are some of the first to be cut when the system faces a shortfall; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native communities and organizations rely on an in-state system of higher education to prepare our workforce, train our leaders, and provide high quality educational opportunities to our people.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Governor and State Legislature to fund the state's system of higher education at a level that ensures high quality programs for Alaska Native students that allows for Alaska Native student retention and graduation within the University of Alaska System; provides adequate support for all Alaska Native students; and provides an annual report on the enrollment, persistence and success of Alaska Native students enrolled in the University of Alaska system.

**NOW BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the UA Board of Regents to provide a thoughtful response to budget reductions with a focus on preserving adequate support for all Alaska Native students and programming; and provides publish an annual report on the enrollment,

persistence and success of Alaska Native students enrolled in the University of Alaska system, and establish measurable goals to improve these outcomes.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AFOGNAK VILLAGES ROUNDTABLE AND KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL  
ROUNDTABLE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-33

- TITLE:** INVEST IN HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR RURAL, ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Educational inequities facing rural students and families emerge as a result of policy proposals that are contrary to the constitutional mandate for the provision of public education open to all students in Alaska, and Section 6303 of Every Student Succeeds Act states its purpose plainly as “to ensure the maximum participation by Alaska Natives educators and leaders in the planning, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs designed to serve Alaska Native student; and
- WHEREAS:** Detrimental policy and budget proposals include but are not limited to: school consolidation (e.g., increasing the required Minimum Average Daily Membership; forced regionalization of schools; and a push to return to a system of boarding schools for rural students), restricting or reducing funding for public education in rural Alaska, cost containment issues making it challenging for rural schools to provide comparable program for students in rural Alaska when their infrastructure and costs differ significantly from that of urban schools (e.g., energy, internet, transportation), and not removing unfunded/underfunded mandates in the provision of rural education; and
- WHEREAS:** These inequities impact a protected class of citizens, which raises constitutional and civil rights concerns – and they contribute to a lower quality of life for our precious people in that research shows time and again that those who do not graduate high school have a shorter life expectancy, lower lifetime income, and lower overall health; and
- WHEREAS:** Educational inequity directly impacts the desire of families to stay in our villages, which means that the strength of our rural school system is tied to the sustainability of our rural communities – when a school is threatened with

closure, there is usually an outmigration of families, which further undermines the viability of our communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention call on the Alaska State Board of Education and the Department of Education to adhere to Federal ESSA Law requires “maximum participation by Alaska Native(s)” in educational efforts that involve Alaska Native children; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN opposes any action by policy makers or others to make worse the educational inequities facing rural Alaska Native students and families, including but not limited to increasing the minimum average daily membership, not funding or underfunding rural schools, school consolidation, and cost containment practices that impact rural Alaska disproportionately compared to other areas.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AFOGNAK VILLAGES ROUNDTABLE AND KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-34

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING THE STATE OF ALASKA’S EDUCATION SYSTEM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Education of our children and youth is essential to building a thriving and educated workforce in the State of Alaska, and especially our Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Constitution requires the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools open to all children of the State; and
- WHEREAS:** The majority of public schools in Rural Alaska are Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA) schools; and
- WHEREAS:** Twelve percent of all pre-kindergarten, primary, and secondary students in Alaska attend REAA schools; and
- WHEREAS:** REAA schools are funded by the State, including any funds passed through by the federal government, and are disproportionately negatively impacted by State budget cuts; and
- WHEREAS:** The success of Alaska’s education system, including REAA schools, is dependent on the State of Alaska allocating sufficient funding for the operation of all schools; and
- WHEREAS:** State budget cuts to the education system cause uncertainty for not only the school administration, but teachers, teachers’ aides, students, parents, communities, and these uncertainties jeopardize the health and well being of our children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges the State of Alaska to fully fund early education, primary, and secondary education each year.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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

## LAND, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCES



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-36

TITLE: CALLING FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE STATE OF ALASKA TO MANAGE AND PROTECT 17B EASEMENTS THAT ARE ADJACENT TO ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE CORPORATIONS AND REGIONAL CORPORATION LANDS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Trespassers and poachers access private lands via 17(b) easements; and

WHEREAS: Alaska State Troopers or local law enforcement have little effect to prosecute criminal offenses due to lack of resources; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives are suffering the consequences of lack of enforcement; and

WHEREAS: Our subsistence way of living is being affected by trespassers who poach our animals.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN requests the United States of America to actively manage 17(b) easements for the entire State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Land Management identify and mark all 17(b) easements within the next 5 years for the entire State of Alaska, and that they be deemed to have relinquished those easements not otherwise identified as 17(b) easements within the 5 year period.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AKHIOK-KAGUYAK, INC. AND KONIAG/KANA  
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-37

**TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR REINSTITUTING THE OCEAN RANGER PROGRAM TO PROTECT ALASKAN WATERS

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** Alaska is the first and only state to require U.S. Coast Guard licensed marine engineers on board vessels to act as independent observers monitoring State environmental and marine discharge requirements; and

**WHEREAS:** The Ocean Rangers Program was created by a ballot initiative and is paid for by cruise ship passenger head tax; and

**WHEREAS:** The Governor's veto effectively blocks DEC from receiving the \$3.4 million in cruise passenger head tax next season; and

**WHEREAS:** Approximately 189 alleged environmental violations were logged last year; and

**WHEREAS:** Left unmonitored, the cruise ships could dump contaminants into Southeast Alaska waters which will have a detrimental impact on the ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS:** For thousands of years, Alaska Native people have depended on subsistence foods for survival.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention support the continued monitoring of the cruise ship industry for illegal disposal of wastewater that is harmful to our oceans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Governor to reinstate the Ocean Ranger Program, to protect our waters and our way of life.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA AND  
KAWERAK, INC.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-38

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF REINSTATING THE OFFICE OF ENERGY COST SHARE WAIVER
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The US Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy (OIE) offers Deployment Grants for tribal energy infrastructure projects to help Native American and Alaska Native communities harness vast energy resources in order to reduce or stabilize energy costs, as well as increase their energy security and resilience; and
- WHEREAS:** the cost share requirements for Deployment Grants are a barrier to entry—and hence a barrier to success—for most Alaska Native tribes, because our tribes are unable to scrape together the dollar for dollar match for non-federal funds; and
- WHEREAS:** OIE has the statutory authority to allow tribes to request a cost share waiver down to 10% (or 10-1 match) if financial need can be shown, and when the Statute is followed, Alaska tribes are successful; and
- WHEREAS:** OIE removed its ability to grant such waivers in its 2017 and 2018 requests for proposals citing the challenge with determining “financial need” of each applicant, although numerous other federal funding opportunities have an established methodology to define a community that qualified for reduced cost share requirements; and
- WHEREAS:** this created an unfair balance between Alaska tribes, many of whom are land and cash constrained, and lower 48 tribes, many of which find the cost share easier to shoulder because of their revenue due to land ownership; and
- WHEREAS:** mitigating the challenge of a 50% non-federal match would require OIE to reinstate its internal policy to reduce the cost share waiver down to 10% for tribes

who can prove financial need. This action could be taken internally within the Office of Indian Energy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention encourage AFN to actively engage the Office of Indian Energy to reinstate the cost share waiver for Alaskan tribes and seek other opportunities for Alaska tribes eligibility for Deployment Grants.



Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-40

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA DIVISION OF FORESTRY, THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES TO REEVALUATE THEIR WILDFIRE STRATEGIES AND RESPOND MORE RAPIDLY TO WILDFIRES NEAR VILLAGES

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** The summer of 2019 was another severe fire season in Alaska, exacerbated in much of the state by an unprecedented drought in August; and

**WHEREAS:** For example, although there was no loss of life or catastrophic property losses, the Bristol Bay region in the 2019 season had fires nearby several villages and many suffered from smoke, and

**WHEREAS:** It was the experience of impacted villages that they were largely left to their own resources and assistance from neighboring villages and that wildfire suppression aid from the responsible fire-fighting agencies wasn't deployed until the villages were at imminent risk; and

**WHEREAS:** The increasing number and scale of wildfire is alarming, particularly given numerous other indicators of a warming climate that suggests fires are only going to get worse; and

**WHEREAS:** AFN understands that fire suppression budgets are limited, that wildfire is natural and often beneficial to the environment, but is concerned that current strategies for wildfire management may not be adequate for a changing climate and may not adequately consider the health effects of the smoke from widespread fires.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges the Alaska Division of Forestry, the Bureau of Land Management-Alaska Fire Service,

and other responsible agencies to respond more rapidly to fires near villages; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fire suppression agencies review and update their strategies  
to ensure the impacts of climate change are accounted for and that the health  
impacts of widespread fires are considered.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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

## ECONOMIC



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-41

TITLE: PROMOTING ALASKA AND ALASKA NATIVE-OWNED BUSINESSES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The theme of AFN's 2019 Convention is "Good Government, Alaskan Driven;" and

WHEREAS: Many Alaskan businesses are owned by Alaska Native organizations and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Alaskan businesses provide critical revenue for Alaska's economy and employment opportunities for Alaskan residents throughout the state; and

WHEREAS: The federal government has numerous installations and procurement opportunities within the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The federal procurement process is extremely complex and creates barriers to local businesses; and

WHEREAS: Promoting Alaskan and Alaska Native-owned businesses, through government contracting, will enhance economic opportunities for the entire Alaska Native community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN does hereby support efforts to promote Alaska and Alaska Native-owned businesses in federal government contracting opportunities throughout the State of Alaska.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE EYAK CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS

## ANSCA/TRIBAL



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2019 Annual AFN Convention  
Resolution 19-42

- TITLE:** LANDS IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES BEING HELD IN TRUST BY THE STATE OF ALASKA UNDER SEC. 14(C)(3) OF ANCSA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Section 14(c)(3) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) required every Native Village Corporation formed under the Act to turn a portion of the lands it received in the Village under the Act over to the State of Alaska to be held in trust for the eventual creation of a municipal government in the area; and
- WHEREAS:** many Villages have already turned land over to be held in trust and managed by the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** in the case of many rural Native Villages the land is now being managed in apparent perpetuity by the State Municipal Land Trust (MLT), an office that is underfunded and overtasked; and
- WHEREAS:** There are a number of villages in Alaska where conveyances to the State MLT have not yet taken place, or have not been finalized with a 14(c)(3) signed agreement; and
- WHEREAS:** it has been decades since the passage of ANCSA, and many years after villages turned over land, and there have been no municipalities formed or planned, and no end in sight; and
- WHEREAS:** the State does not have the resources to adequately manage these lands indefinitely, nor did the drafters of ANCSA intend that result; and
- WHEREAS:** the State laws and regulations governing the MLT give the Trust the authority to convey or dispose of 14(c)(3) lands it is managing in Villages when the Tribal authority (referred to in the regulations as the Appropriate Village Entity) concurs with the action; and

WHEREAS: the local community, acting through its Tribal Council and its Native Village Corporation is best situated to make appropriate decisions on Village land management in the best interests of the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention requests that in cases where there has been demonstrated support by the Village Tribal and Corporate leadership, the MLT should use its authority under AS 44.33.755 and 3 AAS 190.410 – 190.490 to work with the Tribal Council and the Alaska Native Corporation to ensure a smooth and effective return of the 14(c)(3) lands to the appropriate Native entity to manage in what they determine to be their own community's best interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any necessary changes be made to federal law to facilitate the transfer of MLT-held Village lands back to the appropriate Native entity; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that in cases where there has been demonstrated support by the Village Tribal and Alaska Native Corporate leadership, and the Alaska Native Corporation has not completed the 14(c) process, the Alaska Native Corporation should be allowed to transfer part or all of its 14(c)(3) required acreage directly to the appropriate Native entity



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: CHENEGA CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-43

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LANDLESS SOUTHEAST NATIVE COMMUNITIES SEEKING LEGISLATION TO FORM ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT (ANCSA) CORPORATIONS AND RECEIVE ANCSA BENEFITS, INCLUDING LAND SELECTION RIGHTS AND APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1971 the United States Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to their traditional homelands by authorizing the establishment of Alaska Native Corporations to receive and manage lands and funds awarded in settlement of the claims for Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of ANCSA was to settle the land claims of the Alaska Natives and to provide them with the means to pursue economic development for the benefit of Alaska’s Native people; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA was passed to provide for a fair and just settlement of all claims by Natives and Native groups of Alaska, and was to be accomplished rapidly, with certainty, in conformity with real economic and social needs of Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of the Alaska Native Corporations have become successful and powerful economic, social and cultural engines within their communities, regions and throughout the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell (known as “Landless” communities in Southeast Alaska) were not listed as communities eligible to form Native village or urban corporations under ANCSA, despite the fact that these communities comprised greater than 20% of the Shareholders of Sealaska; and

WHEREAS: The reason for this exclusion is not explained in the statutory or report language of ANCSA and an appeal of the exclusion, to the Secretary of the Interior, was not authorized for Southeast Alaska communities in ANCSA; and

WHEREAS: A Congressional report commissioned in 1993 to examine the reason why the five communities were denied ANCSA eligibility indicates that the communities do not differ significantly from the Southeast communities that were allowed ANCSA eligibility; and

WHEREAS: The five Landless communities and shareholders have been denied the benefit of Native land ownership, and the opportunities that this land ownership could provide economically, socially and culturally; and

WHEREAS: These five Landless communities have sought full eligibility for ANCSA land and benefits for four decades, and will continue to fight to correct this historic inequity; and

WHEREAS: The Landless communities, through legislation introduced into the United States Senate and House of Representatives, are seeking an act of Congress to allow them to form ANCSA Native urban corporations and to receive ANCSA benefits, including land selection rights and appropriate compensation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN calls upon the United States Congress, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to recognize these five Landless communities as eligible to form Alaska Native corporations and to receive land selection rights and compensation under ANCSA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives will add its policy support and efforts to the struggle to enact legislation intended to authorize the formation of the Alaska Native corporations for these five Landless communities under ANCSA.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-44

- TITLE:** MAKING ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS WHOLE FOR RECONVEYANCES OF ANCSA LAND REQUIRED BY ANCSA SECTION 14(C)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (“ANCSA”) is universally recognized as a land settlement; and
- WHEREAS:** Section 14(c)(1) and (2) of ANCSA requires Alaska Native Corporations to convey tracts of their ANCSA land to occupants and nonprofits who occupied the lands as of December 18, 1971; and
- WHEREAS:** Section 14(c)(3) of ANCSA requires Alaska Native Corporations to convey tracts of their ANCSA land to Municipal Corporations (or to the State in trust for any future Municipal Corporations) for community expansion and other community needs; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA does not include any provision for Alaska Native Corporations to select additional lands to make them whole for their ANCSA land that they are required to convey pursuant to Section 14(c) of ANCSA; and
- WHEREAS:** The land that Alaska Native Corporations are required to convey under Section 14(c) of ANCSA is often some of its most useful and valuable land because of its proximity to the village, subsistence areas, businesses, and residences; and
- WHEREAS:** Because of the significant variations in required land transfers under 14(c), the net effect of 14(c) has been to significantly undercut the land entitlement for many Alaska Native Corporations; and
- WHEREAS:** Making Alaska Native Corporations whole for 14(c) conveyances will enable Alaska Native Corporations to more freely utilize available lands for community development and promotion of village-wide initiatives; and

WHEREAS: Because many Alaska Native Corporations have not been able to complete 14(c), it has unfairly disadvantaged those that have diligently completed 14(c) while serving as a disincentive to those who have not.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN does hereby support efforts to amend ANCSA and/or seek regulatory changes to make Alaska Native Corporations whole for their ANCSA lands that they are required to convey through Section 14(c) of ANCSA.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE EYAK CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-45

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE DELEGATION TO AMEND ANCSA TO ADDRESS TREATMENT OF INCOME FROM ANCSA CORPORATIONS AND SETTLEMENT TRUSTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) settled the land claims of the Alaska Native people and created for-profit Alaska Native corporations owned by Alaska Native shareholders; and
- WHEREAS:** Following passage of ANCSA, dividends to shareholders from ANCSA corporations were counted as income for purposes of determining eligibility for other federal needs-based benefits programs, adversely impacting shareholders' eligibility for such programs; and
- WHEREAS:** As part of the 1988 ANCSA technical amendments Congress addressed this issue by providing that \$2,000 of income from ANCSA dividends would be excluded from the calculation of income for federal benefit eligibility; and
- WHEREAS:** The amount of the dividend exclusion has not been increased since; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Alaska Native corporations are now issuing distributions through an ANCSA Settlement Trust rather than a dividend from the Alaska Native corporation; and
- WHEREAS:** The eligibility of ANCSA shareholders, particularly elders, to qualify for federal programs continues to be adversely affected by ANCSA dividends and distributions, and some shareholders are compelled to waive or return this income or jeopardize their entitlement to federal programs; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN supports initiatives to have the delegation review and update the \$2,000 income exclusion to either increase and inflation adjust the dollar amount, or to provide an exclusion for Alaska Native corporation dividends and ANCSA Settlement Trust distributions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge our congressional delegation to amend ANCSA's \$2,000 income exclusion to increase and inflation adjust the dollar amount or to provide an exclusion for Alaska Native corporation dividends and ANCSA Settlement Trust distributions in the calculation of income for federal benefit program eligibility.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS

**OTHER**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-46

TITLE: EXPANDING ALASKA NATIVE PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives and Native Americans continue to endure under-representation in policies impacting Indian country including Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives benefit when we have adequate and accurate representation on issues impacting our communities; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's legislature includes approximately less than five Alaska Native legislators in the 60-member body; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have endured decades of misrepresentation or under-representation resulting in less consideration on issues and policies impacting Alaska Native communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention recommend AFN and its membership to encourage Alaska Native candidates for high profile legislative offices by actively hosting candidate forums and networking events statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED such actions to support candidates will begin in the 2020 elections.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AZACHOROK INCORPORATED  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-47

- TITLE:** URGING FULL FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Many Alaska communities are accessible only by water or air; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) provides essential services to more than 35 coastal communities in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Essential services include transportation for: medical services; job opportunities; educational opportunities such as school trips and higher education; transport of vehicles; military; regional container shipments for food; and shopping for groceries and other basic needs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska communities also benefit from coastal residents spending money and purchasing items when traveling to these and other hub communities, as well as from tourism to and from coastal communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Legislature has failed to provide full funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System to continue operations through the end of fiscal year 2019 and beyond; and
- WHEREAS:** AMHS passengers are now facing a change in price based on the number of passengers, which passes on costs to rural residents; and
- WHEREAS:** AMHS has already diminished the winter ferry schedule for some rural routes; and
- WHEREAS:** The effort to make the AMHS an independent or quasi-independent organization will still require state subsidies and as a support for those subsidies gets less and less, rural community routes will likely be cut first; and
- WHEREAS:** A shutdown of the Alaska Marine Highway System would have devastating and unavoidable impacts on those communities it serves.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN urge the Alaska State Legislature to provide full funding to enable the Alaska Marine Highway System to continue operations and in the event that full funding is not provided due to the State budget process being stalled, a baseline allocation would be made to ensure the system could operate until full funding is provided; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN takes all necessary steps to implement this resolution immediately.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AFOGNAK VILLAGES ROUNDTABLE AND KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL  
ROUNDTABLE  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-48

- TITLE:** ESTABLISHING NATIONAL FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION AND A FUNDING PRIORITY FOR ALL RURAL ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska is a vast state with millions of acres of wilderness and has few transportation options with ground transportation non-existent to most rural Alaskan communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The majority of Alaska’s rural, off-road system communities are either ocean or riverine based, relying on marine transportation to freight heavy cargo such as fuel, building materials for housing and public building, groceries, vehicles, and dry goods; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s marine coastal communities also rely on marine facilities to support valuable resource based industries such as fishing, tourism, and logging, and that such facilities are necessary to sustainable economic development and growth as well as to remove accumulations of solid waste from rural communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s military families and forces rely on essential marine to support their relocation, medical, and other needs; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal government has recognized the importance of Essential Air Service in that it provides a vital link that connects, sustains, and maintains our communities, however it has not formally recognized nor established a program of Essential Marine Transportation that formally recognizes the critically important nature of marine transportation in Alaska, which means coastal communities must rely on the good will of the State to support essential marine services; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of our rural coastal communities do not receive regularly scheduled freight or ferry services resulting in no regular marine shipping services for Alaska’s rural, marine-based communities. This in turn causes an exorbitantly high cost of

living relating to the cost of shipping fuel, vehicles, groceries, and staples, a very high cost of construction of new housing and public buildings due to mobilization and shipping costs, and the high cost of maintaining large accumulations of solid waste with no ability to remove them, including materials that can be recyclable; and

WHEREAS: It is not cost effective for businesses to invest in coastal communities to bring goods at this time; and

WHEREAS: There has been recent investment by tribal, local, state, and federal governments in expanding infrastructure such as docks and harbors to accommodate essential marine in coastal communities; and

WHEREAS: Coastal communities are presently dealing with additional cuts to ferry services via the Alaska Marine Highway System, which served in some ways as essential marine.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN strongly recommends the creation of an Essential Marine Transportation Program by the federal government to provide marine transportation subsidies, including the shipment of fuel to support regular, vital, shipping services to Alaska's coastal and riverine communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN strongly urges the State of Alaska to provide consistent ferry services to all rural ports that can support the safe docking of ferries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in all transportation planning by the State of Alaska adequate consideration be given to marine projects such as docks and harbors for Alaska's rural communities that are considered essential to supporting all Essential Marine Transportation and resource-based industries.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: AFOGNAK VILLAGES ROUNDTABLE AND KONIAG/KANA REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-49

**TITLE:** AFN ENCOURAGES MATTEL TO INCLUDE ELIZABETH PERATROVICH IN INSPIRING WOMEN SERIES

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich led the charge in passing the very first anti-discrimination law in the United States; and

**WHEREAS:** Her efforts to petition Governor Ernest Gruening to introduce the Anti-Discrimination Act and her testimony are considered to have been decisive factors in the passage of the law; and

**WHEREAS:** Elizabeth Peratrovich is an iconic civil rights leader in the state; and

**WHEREAS:** Cultural Socialization and Representation promotes self-confidence and cultural pride, Alaska Native children deserve to see someone who looks like them; and

**WHEREAS:** Mattel, the maker of Barbie® has their Inspiring Women series to pay tribute to “courageous women who paved the way for generations of girls to dream bigger than ever before”; and

**WHEREAS:** An Elizabeth Peratrovich doll is a chance for Mattel to make an Alaska Native hero visible and accessible.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN understands the significant impacts on self-esteem and cultural pride in representation for Native American and Alaska Native youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION, that AFN encourages Mattel to include Elizabeth Peratrovich, a civil rights icon, in their Inspiring Women series to inspire Native youth for generations to come to fight for equity and be proud of who you are.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-50

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** For more than 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; and
- WHEREAS:** ALSC's lawyers in twelve offices and six medical-legal partnership sites embedded within tribal healthcare facilities around the state serve a population of over 98,854 Alaskans living below 125% of the poverty threshold, including more than 31,965 Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** the Bristol Bay Native Association as well as several other regional Native organizations including the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Maniilaq Association currently partner with ALSC to support local ALSC offices and staff in the communities of Dillingham, Bethel, Fairbanks, and Kotzebue; and
- WHEREAS:** several regional for-profits have provided significant financial and in-kind support to ALSC's regional offices including Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, CIRI, 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 Orutsararmut Native Council have also provided financial support for and partnered with ALSC; and
- WHEREAS:** the State of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for fiscal year (FY) 2020,

which was added to the operating budget by the legislature, completely eliminated by Governor Dunleavy's veto, re-added to the budget by the legislature through special session, and then approved by Governor Dunleavy in the amount of \$759,010 to be used for domestic violence and sexual assault civil legal services; and

WHEREAS: This amount 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 7,210 people living in over 191 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 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Governor of Alaska to retain the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed FY 2021 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.



Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-51

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE INTERNATIONAL REPATRIATION OF TRIBAL NATIONS' TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND COORDINATION AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage—including cultural items protected under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, archaeological resources protected under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, objects of antiquity protected under the Antiquities Act, and other culturally significant items—is illegally removed and trafficked domestically and abroad at an alarming rate, and tribal nations are often forced to act quickly to secure its return when it appears in auction catalogues for sale; and
- WHEREAS:** Once tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage is exported from the United States, it is extremely difficult to regain, in part because United States federal law lacks certain provisions needed to access other countries' domestic laws and legal mechanisms and international diplomatic tools; and
- WHEREAS:** An explicit export prohibition and export certification system for tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage that is currently protected under existing federal laws—including cultural items obtained in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, archaeological resources obtained in violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and objects of antiquity obtained in violation of the Antiquities Act—would allow the United States and tribal nations to request its return from certain countries, such as France, that restrict import of cultural heritage illegally exported from a country that provides export certification;
- WHEREAS:** A confirmation of the President's authority to enter into agreements under the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, a 1970 international treaty, in order to request from other countries return of tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage that is currently protected under existing federal laws, paired with the

explicit export prohibition and export certification system together, would allow the United States to use the treaty as a diplomatic tool in retrieving such items; and

WHEREAS: Mechanisms through which the federal agencies, including the Departments of Interior, Justice, State, and Homeland Security, whose work affects domestic and international repatriation of tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage could coordinate with each other, tribal nations, and individuals seeking to voluntarily return tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage would aid in protection and repatriation of tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to develop legislation, in consultation with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, to:

1. Prohibit the export of tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage that is currently protected under existing federal laws, including cultural items obtained in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, archaeological resources obtained in violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and objects of antiquity obtained in violation of the Antiquities Act; and
2. Create an export certification system that prevents the export of such items; and
3. Confirm the President's authority to enter into agreements under the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property in order to request from other countries return of such items; and
4. Create a federal framework to support voluntary return of tribal nations' tangible cultural heritage, a federal working group to ensure coordination between federal agencies, and a tribal working group to advise federal agencies and committees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress to enact the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act or substantially similar legislation, which is designed to address these issues.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION, SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE,  
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIANS OF ALASKA  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-52

- TITLE:** RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS IN ALASKA, URGING EVERY ALASKAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS, ENGAGING WITH THE STATE COMPLETE COUNT COMMISSION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** United States Census Bureau data collections are fundamental to our country's democratic process because they are used to determine apportionment in the U.S. House of Representatives, redraw state legislative boundaries, and redraw the political subdivisions of local governments; and
- WHEREAS:** the United States Census Bureau is required by the United States Constitution to conduct a count of the population every 10 years to help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American democracy; and
- WHEREAS:** every year, billions of dollars of federal and state funds are allocated to communities, and decisions on matters of national and local importance, including healthcare, community development, business location and operations, housing, education, transportation, social services, and employment, are made based on census data; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal government allocates over \$800 billion annually based upon Census Bureau data, including more than \$3.2 billion within Alaska each year; and
- WHEREAS:** the distribution of federal funding for American Indian and Alaska Native schools, education programs, health programs, housing programs, water and

sewage projects, roads, and economic development is based on data collected by the Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS: Census Bureau data is used to enforce state and federal laws, including civil rights laws, and voting rights requirements; and

WHEREAS: Tribes, governments, businesses, and non-profits throughout Alaska use Census Bureau data for planning and development; and

WHEREAS: Alaskan communities, particularly those with a high proportion of Alaska Natives, are among the most difficult in the nation to count accurately due to challenges such as geographical location and language barriers; and

WHEREAS: The additional consequences of undercounting Alaska Native persons include: inequitable redistricting, decreased federal funding that exacerbates Alaska's fiscal situation, reductions in essential services like infrastructure repairs, decreased funding for education and programs that make up Alaska's social safety net, improper enforcement of laws that protect vulnerable populations, and less accurate data available to tribes and tribal organizations to effectively plan for the future; and

WHEREAS: a State Complete Count Commission was established in Alaska to improve stakeholder engagement and coordination and to encourage statewide participation in the 2020 Census.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN recognizes the critical importance of accurate U.S. Census Bureau data to all Alaskans, as well as the unique challenges of Census data collection in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges every Alaskan to participate in the 2020 Census; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the United States Congress to appropriate sufficient federal resources to maintain or improve the accuracy of Census Bureau data collections in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the State Complete Count Commission to engage with Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Alaska Native Corporations

throughout Alaska to ensure a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census;  
and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor of Alaska; to the Chair of the State of Alaska Complete Count Commission; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the United States Census Bureau.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES AND ASSOCIATION OF  
VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-53

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE ALASKA RURAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE AND SATELLITE SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE ARE FULLY FUNDED AND TO RESTORE ELIMINATED FUNDING TO CONTINUE OPERATIONAL SERVICE AND TO RESTORE FUNDING TO PUBLIC BROADCASTING TO PREVENT FURTHER LOSS OF CRITICAL SERVICES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS) provides free, over-the-air television service to approximately 185 rural and isolated Alaska communities and remains a primary, affordable information source for many users; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS, a television service formerly known as RATNet, is owned and operated by the State of Alaska, and the state relies on it as part of its emergency broadcast system; and
- WHEREAS:** The emergency communications role played by the ARCS television service provides the State of Alaska's Emergency Alert System with a top level distribution platform to quickly and reliably relay emergency alerts to rural residents as well as radio and TV broadcast stations statewide; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has operated ARCS in partnerships with rural village community organizations and urban television broadcasters for over three decades; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS continues to provide a valuable service to rural Alaska, especially the most vulnerable and at-risk residents in remote areas, as a free-to-watch over the air television service; and
- WHEREAS:** ARCS delivers vital weather and emergency information, as well as news, public affairs, entertainment and educational programming in some of Alaska's most remote and economically depressed regions; and

- WHEREAS: Through an FY14 Capital Appropriation, the State of Alaska is in the process of converting all ARCS's transmitters in the villages from analog to digital; the AFN Convention supported this project in Resolution 2012-34; and
- WHEREAS: The satellite infrastructure delivers ARCS TV, multiple public TV and radio services, Gavel Alaska, and emergency alerts to residents statewide; and
- WHEREAS: The Digital Conversion Project delivers improved and increased programming to ARCS viewers with no additional operating costs, implements new electronics to replace aging equipment, and maximizes the use of the ARCS satellite infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska's initial investment in RATNet produced three decades of service to bush and rural Alaska that continues as ARCS today; and the new digital ARCS technology increases availability of free broadcasting content and services to many residents for the first time; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting in Alaska provides over the air non-commercial public service programming to un-served and underserved audiences throughout Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting provides an unparalleled level of local public service programming including local news; weather and marine conditions; community information; emergency, health and safety information; music and public affairs programming; and live event coverage; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting serves bush and rural communities where commercial service does not exist. Service in the bush is provided by originating stations based in bush and rural communities and by urban stations with equipment in remote areas; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting's public safety mission is reflected in participation in the statewide Emergency Alert System (EAS), which for many is a primary source of local, statewide and national emergency declarations; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting's education mission is reflected in the high quality of its children's programming, educational outreach in the community, and lifelong learning opportunities for all ages; and
- WHEREAS: Public broadcasting's local service mission is characterized by local ownership, local control of programming, deep community engagement; strong partnerships with many community organizations; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN urges Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska State Legislature to ensure the Alaska Rural Communications Service, and Satellite Services are fully funded and to restore eliminated funding for public broadcasting so that residents in bush and rural Alaska continue to receive these fundamental radio and television services.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

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



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-54

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (ASCA)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) was created in statute in 1966 by the Alaska State Legislature to act as Alaska’s State Arts Agency; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of ASCA is to represent, support, and advance the creative endeavors of individuals, organizations, and agencies throughout Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** ASCA supports Alaska Native artists through a variety of efforts including its Traditional Native Arts Program, Alaska Native Arts Senior Advisory Committee, Alaska Native Leadership Program, Alaska’s Living Cultural Treasures and Rural Artists Residencies Programs, and other initiatives; and
- WHEREAS:** ASCA has supported and advocated for protection of Alaska Native artists and their artwork through management of the Silver Hand Alaska Native arts authentication program; and
- WHEREAS:** ASCA has developed strong partnerships with Alaska Native profit and non-profit organizations and tribal entities through the delivery of professional development services. ASCA’s goal is for Alaska Native artists to thrive and prosper, bringing the maximum benefits from all these arts forms to those who practice, enjoy, and appreciate them;
- WHEREAS:** on a per capita basis, Alaska invests about one dollar annually (from all State fund sources) in ASCA, which returns over three dollars for each Alaskan; and
- WHEREAS:** ASCA has helped create, and is key to sustaining, an arts sector that is a major economic driver in Alaska. As of 2012, 9700 Alaskans were employed in the arts and creative industries. Nonprofit arts organizations supported by ASCA generate over \$26 million in revenue. \$85 million in revenues are generated through art gallery and individual artist sales, and another \$17 million in revenues are generated through performing arts events. (Creative Vitality Index,

Western States Arts Federation). Modest funding from the State of Alaska, matched more than 3-to-1 by federal and private foundation support, not only improves quality of life for Alaskans, but sustains multiple vital parts of our economy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that AFN urge the Governor of Alaska to retain the appropriation for ASCA in his proposed FY 20201 budget at the FY 2020 level at minimum, and urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding at the FY 2020 level at minimum in support of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BOARD RECOMMENDATION: SEND TO THE FLOOR  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-55

TITLE: GOOD GOVERNMENT, ALASKAN DRIVEN

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Since time immemorial Alaska Natives have owned and occupied Alaska and have governed themselves under their traditional forms of government, enabling them to thrive and flourish for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives sought to secure the right to vote in the territorial and federal governments; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have a history of working to secure their aboriginal, civil, and land rights and to ensure that government meets its responsibilities to its citizens; and

WHEREAS: When AFN formed more than 50 years ago, Native leaders included in the organization's Articles of Incorporation a call for good government; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives, who have three layers of citizenships under tribal, state and federal governments, understand the elements of "Good Government" and the responsibility of government to promote justice and equity and to support the social and economic welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS: With Alaska facing serious fiscal challenges that could negatively impact all Alaskan citizens and rural and urban communities alike, "Alaskan Driven," long term, and balanced solutions must be sought through meaningful engagement between all Alaskans and the legislature and administration.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention that the AFN membership and administration in attendance at the 2019 AFN Convention commits itself to strengthen the Native community's bonds of unity,

and reach out to all Alaskans to help build an Alaska in which current and future generations may thrive and prosper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN through its membership and administration will continue to engage with federal and state governments at all levels and in all branches to further the interests of all Alaska citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN will continue to implement and update its public policy Advocacy Plan for Alaska and will join with other interest groups and citizens to ensure that the State of Alaska meets its obligations to all its citizens as set forth in Alaska's Constitutions are met.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BOARD RECOMMENDATION: SEND TO THE FLOOR  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-56

- TITLE:** DECLARATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our people; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Elders and Youth Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** We the indigenous youth and future leaders of Alaska are concerned for the survival of our future generations, ways of life, traditional lands, intact ecosystems, emotional, spiritual, and mental well-being due to Climate Change; and
- WHEREAS:** Our indigenous lands and waters are warming at twice the rate as the rest of the world. Many communities across the state face hardships directly correlated with Climate Change, such as the extreme warming temperatures which melt the permafrost, causing mass erosion, resulting in the relocation of entire communities along with devastating the natural habitats of our animal and plant relatives. These impacts have disrupted indigenous seasonal hunting and gathering traditions; and
- WHEREAS:** In recent years we have lost community members due to unpredictable and unsafe ice conditions, have seen the die off and disease of seals, salmon, migratory birds, shellfish, whales, polar bears, and recognize that these are also our relatives; and

WHEREAS: We, the Alaska Native youth, are asking our tribal leaders to consider, as is traditional, the future of their grandchildren and the generations to come.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives will reinstate a climate action leadership task force within the Alaska Federation of Natives to advance indigenous voices and advocate for strong climate policies that will ensure the survival of future generations and to declare a state of emergency on Climate Change.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND  
YOUTH CONFERENCE  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-57

- TITLE:** PROTECT CLEAN WATER AND WATER DEPENDENT SPECIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** the First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** the purpose of the Elders and Youth Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Water was always treated with the utmost respect, and traditional and customary foods requires careful cultural stewardship and protection of indigenous environmental and natural resources; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s indigenous peoples have relied on clean water; the health of our water is the most important issue in protecting our wild salmon, the entire ecosystem, and all species that rely on water; and
- WHEREAS:** Our spiritual connection to the land, air, sea and resources which are abundant; gives our people purpose and identity which is more than just water and food, it provides the ability to harvest resources from nature which gives each person, family, and community a reason to live in the areas we have inhabited for millennia.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives agree that the future of the generations yet to come hinge upon actions taken today by tribal, regional non-profits, ANCSA Corporations, state and federal leaders to protect the health of our waters and wild salmon therefore any current or future regulation, statute change, or new statute must meet this standard of protecting our traditional Native ways of living and will use the tribal consultation to do so.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-58

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ESTABLISHING DREAM CENTERS IN EACH VILLAGE TO CREATE A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO SLEEP
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Students need help with having a safe environment where they could go to get enough sleep and feel safe which impacts their ability to learn and thrive; and
- WHEREAS:** Due to overcrowded housing and negative social surroundings many students come to school without getting the 9-12 hours of sleep for 6 to 12 year-old children and 8-10 hours of sleep for 13 to 18-year-old children as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics; and
- WHEREAS:** Funding for tribal health and social service not-for-profits is obtained through partnerships with tribes and that funding can be used to help tribes establish Dream Centers or another safe place to sleep in each community for children 6-18 years-old.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon the tribal health and social service not-for-profit organizations to help communities with the problem of designating and staffing a dream house or appropriate safe house for children in each community.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND  
YOUTH CONFERENCE  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-59

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ALASKA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE TEACHING ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION WITH FUNDING
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska recognizes all Alaska Native languages as official languages and sets the mandatory curriculum for all Alaskan school through the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; and
- WHEREAS:** A student's knowledge of the Alaska Native language relevant to their area fosters pride in their identity and promotes a sense of belonging at school and in their community and communities do not currently have adequate access to Alaska Native language education; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native languages relevant to each school or area can be taught alongside education and treated as an equal in importance to all other subjects; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request of the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development implement a one-year foreign language requirement with funding for graduation from all Alaska high school that includes Alaska Native languages.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND  
YOUTH CONFERENCE  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-60

**TITLE:** REQUESTING SUPPORT FIVE FOCUS AREAS IN ALASKA – COMPACTING FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE) FUNDS

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** The First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

**WHEREAS:** The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Tribes in Alaska support funding for five Tribal focus areas in Alaska for Compacting of Bureau of Indian Educational (BIE) funds; and

**WHEREAS:** Kenaitze Indian Tribe supports the five Tribal focus areas in Alaska, who are in need of educational funding, to enhance educational opportunities for Tribes in Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS:** the Kenaitze Indian Tribal Council supports the five (5) Tribal focus areas which include: Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Akiak Native Community, Kotzebue IRA, and Tlingit and Haida

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the five (5) Tribal focus areas which

include: Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Akiak Native Community, Kotzebue IRA, and Southeast Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution once accepted by the participants, be transmitted to NCAI to support the five focus areas in Alaska – Compacting for Bureau of Indian Education Funds for the five (5) Tribal focus areas which include: Kenaitze Indian Tribe, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Akiak Native Community, Kotzebue IRA, and Southeast Alaska.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-61

- TITLE:** CALLING ON ELECTED OFFICIALS, FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO RESPECT TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TO INCORPORATE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND SOLUTIONS IN ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** the First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** the purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Climate warming is creating a burden to our future generations that are facing the consequences of inaction. Alaska Native communities are facing major spiritual, emotional, physical, economic and cultural consequences from the increasing harm caused by climate warming and the transport, release, and exposures to harmful contaminants such as mercury and persistent organic pollutants. The massive die offs of seabirds and marine mammals, shrinking sea ice and permafrost, increasing storm surges, wildfires and other consequences of climate change are endangering our cultures, our way of life and survival as Indigenous peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native voices and guidance are often missing from discussions and decisions related to climate change and contaminants, their effects upon our communities' health and wellbeing, and solutions to solve these crises; and
- WHEREAS:** Article 18 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) declares that *"Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in*

*decision-making in matters which would affect their rights...as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision-making institutions;" and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon elected officials, state and federal agencies to meet their obligations to incorporate tribal government priorities when addressing the climate crisis and to fully include tribes in discussions and decisions toward solutions and a rapid shift to a just, equitable, and pollution-free energy future. This is necessary to ensure the protection of our way of life, our traditional foods, our cultures, our health and well-being, and future generations.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-62

TITLE: UPDATE ALASKA HISTORY CURRICULUM

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: the First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

WHEREAS: the purpose of the Elders and Youth Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of participants as leaders today, and advance solutions such as these resolutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: Required statewide Alaskan History classes currently do not include oral history from regional Elders or support from Regional Corporations and Tribes; and

WHEREAS: The Alaskan Board of Education currently does not give students the opportunity to acquire authentic information about their cultures and to build pride in who they are and where they are from; and

WHEREAS: A more accurate curriculum would include each Tribes' traditional ways, history, and beliefs from each region's perspective so all students could be more culturally sensitive to Alaska's past and future, and so all students in Alaska have access to more factual information.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives agree to advocate for rightful representation in Alaska history and to the Regional Corporations, Tribal entities, and the Alaskan Board of Education for their adoption and support.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2019 FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE ELDERS AND  
YOUTH CONFERENCE  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-63

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES (DMV), TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO DMV SERVICES IN ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 186 federally recognized tribes, 177 village corporations, 12 regional 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; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA), all air travelers must show valid identification at airport checkpoints in order to travel; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal REAL ID Act established requirements for State-issued driver's licenses and identification (ID) cards in order for them to be valid for air travel, and the State of Alaska DMV is responsible for implementing these requirements in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Beginning October 1, 2020, Alaska residents must have a REAL ID-compliant State-issued driver's license or ID card, or other valid form of identification (such as a passport or tribal-issued photo ID); and
- WHEREAS:** Many residents in Alaska Native communities do not have alternate forms of valid identification and rely on State-issued driver's licenses or ID cards for air travel; and
- WHEREAS:** Without assistance from the Alaska DMV, many residents of our Alaska Native communities will be unable to obtain REAL ID-compliant State-issued licenses or ID cards because they do not have reasonable access to existing DMV facilities; over one hundred Alaska Native communities are not connected to the road system and the cost of air travel to the nearest DMV facility is prohibitively high; and

WHEREAS: This has the potential to create a crisis in health care as access to commercial air travel is essential for many residents of our Alaska Native communities to obtain access to a higher level of care; and

WHEREAS: If members of the Alaska Native community are unable to obtain REAL ID-compliant State-issued licenses or ID cards by October 1, 2020, many will not have access to health care beyond that provided in their local communities, which could lead to negative outcomes and higher costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AFN calls on the State of Alaska DMV to travel to Alaska Native communities in rural Alaska to provide access to DMV services so its members will be able to obtain Real ID-compliant State-issued licenses or ID cards by October 1, 2020.



*Julie E. Kitka*

Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: THE ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians  
Resolution #ABQ-19-029

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT  
**Fawn R. Sharp**  
*Quinault Indian Nation*

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
**Aaron Payment**  
*Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
Chippewa Indians*

RECORDING SECRETARY  
**Juana Majel-Dixon**  
*Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians*

TREASURER  
**Clinton Lageson**  
*Kenaitze Indian Tribe*

REGIONAL VICE-  
PRESIDENTS

ALASKA  
**Rob Sanderson, Jr.**  
*Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of  
Alaska*

EASTERN OKLAHOMA  
**Norman Hildebrand**  
*Wyandotte Nation*

GREAT PLAINS  
**Larry Wright, Jr.**  
*Ponca Tribe of Nebraska*

MIDWEST  
**Shannon Holsey**  
*Stockbridge Munsee Band of  
Mohican Indians*

NORTHEAST  
**Tina Abrams**  
*Seneca Nation of Indians*

NORTHWEST  
**Leonard Forsman**  
*Suquamish Tribe*

PACIFIC  
**Erica Mae Macias**  
*Cahuilla Band of Indians*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
**MARK POLLOCK**  
*Blackfeet Nation*

SOUTHEAST  
**Nancy Carnley**  
*Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian  
Tribe of Alabama*

SOUTHERN PLAINS  
**Robert Tippeconnie**  
*Comanche Nation*

SOUTHWEST  
**Vacant**

WESTERN  
**Alan Mandell**  
*Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe*

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**KEVIN ALLIS**  
*Forest County Potawatomi  
Community*

**NCAI HEADQUARTERS**  
1516 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org

**TITLE: Oppose Rulemaking that Weakens or Eliminates Protections of the Roadless Rule within Tribal Traditional Territories and Support the ‘No-Action Alternative’ in the Alaska-Specific Roadless Rulemaking**

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes of Alaska’s southeast region are federally recognized Indian tribes under federal law and these tribes’ traditional territory includes homelands within and around the Tongass National Forest; and

**WHEREAS**, protection of the inherent right to harvest and use tribal traditional and customary foods requires careful cultural stewardship and protection of tribal traditional environmental and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, indigenous peoples’ longstanding care of the ancestral lands now classified as “inventoried roadless areas” (IRA) within the Tongass National Forest has been in place for millennia and these lands not only provide indigenous people with food, they essentially define who we are and where we come from; and

**WHEREAS**, inventoried roadless areas protect healthy watersheds that ensure a clean drinking water for our tribal citizens and inventoried roadless areas contain many sites sacred to tribal citizens who use these roadless areas for spiritual, religious, and traditional practices and other customary uses and activities; and

**WHEREAS**, inventoried roadless areas conserve natural diversity and help ensure the continued protection of indigenous fish and wildlife habitat as it relates to our spiritual, social, nutritional, and ecological values; and

**WHEREAS**, given Southeast Alaska's cool wet weather, the amount of stored carbon in intact old-growth forest and soils, the Tongass National Forest represents one of the highest carbon stores in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the conservation of intact inventoried roadless areas in, for example, the Tongass National Forest – the largest temperate rainforest in the United States – is essential for slowing down climate change throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the State of Alaska's economic experts, Tongass National Forest timber is uncompetitive because of permanent and fundamental changes in global timber markets, high labor costs, distance from markets, and less expensive substitutes and they also note that the Tongass timber industry represents less than one percent of today's jobs and earnings in Southeast Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, at hearings held across Southeast Alaska in 2000 on the proposed roadless rule, nearly 60 percent of the Southeast Alaskans who spoke at the hearings supported including the Tongass National Forest in the final roadless rule, and this support has only grown to upward of 80 percent to date; and

**WHEREAS**, the best available science and traditional ecological knowledge support the conclusion that the 'no action alternative' should be the preferred alternative to the roadless rule changes.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) opposes any rulemaking that weakens or eliminates Roadless Rule protections within tribal traditional territories, including the Tongass National Forest; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, such change would substantially and negatively affect the inherent rights of tribes to use the land in traditional and customary ways; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI opposes any action that negatively affects traditional lands and waters without the affected tribes' consent; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in light of proposed changes to the Roadless Rule protections as applied to the Tongass National Forest, the National Congress of American Indians strongly supports a 'no-action alternative' to narrowing the protections provided by the Roadless Rule to all National Forest lands within tribal traditional territories; and

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

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, October 20-25, 2019, with a quorum present.



---

Fawn Sharp, President

**ATTEST:**



---

Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary