

**2006 AFN CONVENTION**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**OCTOBER 28, 2006**

**2006 AFN CONVENTION  
RESOLUTIONS  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>CONVENTION ACTION</b>
	<b>BOARD RESOLUTIONS</b>	
06-01	PROTECTION OF OUR SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS AND WAY OF LIFE	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-02	IN SUPPORT OF NATIVE AMERICANS FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE SBA 8(a) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-03	IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING THE COST OF RURAL BOUND FREIGHT THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF PORT OF ANCHORAGE INTERMODAL EXPANSION PROJECT	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-04	REQUESTING THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME AND THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES TO INCLUDE FAMILY MEMBERS OF OUR DEPLOYED ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS IN THE ALASKA PROXY HUNTING REGULATIONS	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-05	REQUESTING AN INVESTIGATION INTO COMPLAINTS OF INAPPROPRIATE, DISCRIMINATORY, DEMEANING AND DISCOURTEOUS CONDUCT ON THE PART OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GAME TOWARD NATIVE SUBSISTENCE USERS	AMENDED AND PASSED
	<b>SPECIAL RECOGNITION</b>	
06-06	HONORING JONATHON SOLOMON FOR DEDICATING HIS LIFE TO ADVOCATING FOR ALASKA NATIVES	PASSED
06-07	HONORING FRANKLIN MADROS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AS AN ADVOCATE FOR ALASKA NATIVES AND AN ATHABASCAN CULTURE BEARER	PASSED
06-08	HONORING OUR ALASKA NATIVE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND ALL OF OUR ALASKA NATIVE MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES	AMENDED AND PASSED
	<b>SUBSISTENCE</b>	
06-09	PROTECTING SUBSISTENCE THROUGH COASTAL MANAGEMENT	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-10	FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE STATUS CHANGES FOR INDIGENOUS NATIVE PEOPLE OF ALASKA	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-11	PROTECTION OF TIER II SUBSISTENCE HUNTING RIGHTS	AMENDED AND PASSED

06-12	REASSERTION OF THE STATE OF ALASKA'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FOR AMOUNTS NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE, REASONABLE HARVEST OPPORTUNITY AND REGAIN COMPLIANCE WITH RELATED STATUTORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS	PASSED
06-13	REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE TO RECOGNIZE THE FALL MIGRATORY BIRD HUNT IN RURAL ALASKA AS A "SUBSISTENCE HUNT"	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-14	REQUESTING DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE AND ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE TO WITHDRAW THEIR LAWSUIT TO STOP THE STATE OF ALASKA'S PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND CEASE MAKING INACCURATE PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THEIR OPINIONS REPRESENT "ALL THE PUBLIC INTERESTS" UNTIL THEY HAVE CONSULTED WITH, AND OBTAINED CONCURRENCE OR PERMISSION OF, ALL AFFECTED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS ON THE ISSUE	PASSED
06-15	REQUESTING AFN'S SUPPORT FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCE SERVICE AREAS (CRSA's) OF THE STATE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES FOR SUBSISTENCE ON AN AREA-WIDE BASIS AND OPPOSE EFFORTS TO MAKE POCKET-SIZED, POSTAGE-SIZED DESIGNATION FOR SUBSISTENCE	PASSED
	<b>HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE</b>	
06-16	A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO STATE OF ALASKA LICENSING LAWS AFFECTING SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE DISABLED OR HOMEBOUND NEEDING HOMECARE ASSISTANCE THAT DESIRE TO STAY WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY AND TO MAKE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO PROVIDE SAID SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE DISABLED OR HOMEBOUND	PASSED
06-17	SUPPORTING SONYA IVANOFF LAW	AMENDED AND PASSED
	<b>CULTURAL</b>	
06-18	SUPPORTING THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF ALASKA NATIVE INMATES	PASSED
06-19	OPPOSITION TO REINSTATEMENT OF DEATH PENALTY IN ALASKA	PASSED
	<b>LAND &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	
06-20	CLIMATE CHANGE IN ALASKA	AMENDED AND PASSED

	<b>EDUCATION</b>	
06-21	AFFIRMING THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF NATIVE CHILDREN AND CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE INJUSTICES	PASSED
06-22	URGING REGIONAL NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS TO COLLABORATE WITH THE REGION'S TRIBES AND THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION, ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INCORPORATE THE REGION'S CULTURES AND LANGUAGES INTO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CURRICULUM	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-23	ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE COMMISSION	PASSED
06-24	SUPPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE READY TO READ, READY TO LEARN TASK FORCE	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-25	SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE JESSE LEE HOME	PASSED
06-26	ENSURING WORKFORCE READINESS	PASSED
	<b>ECONOMIC</b>	
06-27	ENERGY COSTS	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-28	SUPPORTING THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES' ECONOMIC INITIATIVES	PASSED
06-29	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA MARKETPLACE INITIATIVE BY THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES	PASSED
06-30	CALLING FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES AND THE STATE OF ALASKA AND ITS AGENCIES TO GIVE ATTENTION TO ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED VILLAGES AND ENABLE RURAL VILLAGES TO BECOME SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	PASSED
06-31	INSURING THAT ALASKA NATIVES WILL BENEFIT AND BE PROTECTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALASKA GASLINE	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-32	CALLING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT	PASSED
06-33	SUPPORTING USPS POSTAL UNIT CONTRACTS IN ALL VILLAGES IN ALASKA	PASSED
06-34	CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND	AMENDED AND PASSED

	<b>ANCSA/TRIBAL</b>	
06-35	A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALASKA INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-36	CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR AMENDING THE ALASKA NATIVE ALLOTMENT ACT AND THE ALASKA NATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS ALLOTMENT ACT FOR VETERANS, SPOUSES AND FAMILY MEMBERS	AMENDED AND PASSED
06-37	REQUEST FOR STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO INCLUDE ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES & ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH USDA REGULATIONS	PASSED
06-38	ENCOURAGING THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR TRIBAL PRIORITY ALLOCATION WITHIN THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BUDGET	AMENDED AND PASSED
	<b>OTHER</b>	
06-39	OPPOSING SB 1845: A BILL TO DIVIDE THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT	PASSED
	<b>SUSPENSION OF RULES</b>	
06-40	SUPPORTING ICWA COMPLIANCE IN CHILD IN NEED OF AID PROTECTIVE PLACEMENTS THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH TRIBAL STAKEHOLDERS AND THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO ACCOMPLISH RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF LICENSED ALASKA NATIVE FOSTER HOMES	PASSED
06-41	URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA BOARD OF GAME TO DEFER REVIEW OF CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL FINDINGS UNDER TIER II UNTIL ITS MARCH 2007 MEETING	PASSED
06-42	ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES STRONGLY URGES THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION AND THE ALASKA DENTAL SOCIETY TO DROP THEIR LAWSUIT AGAINST THE ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM AND DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPISTS	PASSED
06-43	SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION AND INCREASED FUNDING FOR NATIVE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS	PASSED
06-44	TO INCREASE PREVENTION AND RAPID RESPONSE CAPACITY TO VESSEL SPILLS IN ALASKA'S WATERS	PASSED

## **BOARD RESOLUTIONS**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-01

TITLE: PROTECTION OF OUR SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS AND WAY OF LIFE

WHEREAS: Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering constitute the nutritional, spiritual and cultural foundation of Alaska's indigenous peoples and our village cultures; and

WHEREAS: The right to continue our traditional subsistence way of life to continue was one of the commitments made by the Congressional Conference Committee when the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was passed in 1971; and

WHEREAS: When neither the State nor the Secretary of the Interior fulfilled Congress' expectation, we Alaska Natives petitioned for systematic and comprehensive statutory protections for our way of life; and

WHEREAS: In Title VIII of ANILCA, Congress did not provide explicit protection of Alaska Native subsistence uses, choosing instead to enact a priority for subsistence uses by Alaska's "rural" residents – an action taken in response to objections by the State of Alaska to a Native preference; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska then enacted its own conforming law giving a rural priority, thereby gaining the right to manage subsistence hunting and fishing on all federal public lands and waters in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: In 1990, the State lost its right to manage subsistence fishing and hunting on federal lands and waters when the Alaska Supreme Court found that the State's rural-priority subsistence law violated its own Constitution; and

WHEREAS: Since 1990, the Alaska Legislature, stymied by a minority of its members who oppose subsistence, has refused to allow a vote on a constitutional amendment that would allow a state law consistent with federal law, advocating instead for the repeal or weakening of Title VIII in order to strip Native villages of the only protection they still have for their subsistence way of life; and

WHEREAS: In 1990, the federal government took over management of subsistence hunting on federal lands in Alaska; and later in the decade, its jurisdiction

was expanded (by the *Katie John* suit) to cover subsistence fishing on reserved navigable waters, which are on or adjacent to those lands; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) adopted the state system as its starting point, incorporating into federal regulations all state subsistence regulations in place at the time; however, the state system has been manipulated to the point that state law provides little or no protection for the subsistence way of life, while federal regulations more accurately reflect customary and traditional practices of rural subsistence users; and

WHEREAS: The Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), which have provided a strong voice in federal management for subsistence users, are now threatened by:

- (1) a proposed regulatory change that would require 30 per cent of the members of each RAC to represent sport and commercial interests;
- (2) proposed policy changes that would weaken their advisory role;
- (3) creation of an 11<sup>th</sup> RAC for the Kenai Peninsula; and
- (4) a legal interpretation that RACs are due no special deference on special actions or temporary requests; and

WHEREAS: The steady growth of urban Alaska has increased competition for fish and game - threatening the survival of many rural communities, especially those on the road system - and has led to a number of actions by the State to restrict local subsistence users, including:

- (1) a call for proposals to create more nonsubsistence use areas; and
- (2) increasing restrictions on Tier II hunters and the creation of a “super exclusive” subsistence area for the popular Nelchina Caribou hunt in GMU 13, the effect of which would be to confine subsistence users to a smaller hunting area, to limit their ability to hunt anywhere else in Alaska, and to open up their traditional hunting grounds to sport hunters; and

WHEREAS: Meanwhile, the Federal Subsistence Board is proposing a rule that would change rural status to urban status in several Alaska communities and areas, including the rural areas around Ketchikan and on Kodiak; and

WHEREAS: Since at least early 2005, the State has mounted a calculated campaign to enhance its own role in the federal management system and to change a number of important policies in ways that can negatively impact the way subsistence is managed - all in order to bring the federal management system more in line with the state management system; and

WHEREAS: Having been unable to effect some of these changes through the Federal Subsistence Board, the State has petitioned directly to the Secretary of the Interior for amendments to the federal regulations that govern the way the FSB makes its “customary and traditional” use determinations, as well as the way it decides on the closure of federal public lands; it has filed several requests for reconsideration of C&T determinations; and it has

filed a lawsuit over one such determination in GMU 12; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of the growing threats to our way of life from:  
(1) regulatory, organizational, procedural and management actions of state and federal managers;  
(2) renewed efforts in court to limit the scope of federal regulation; and  
(3) the State's effort to transform the federal program,  
AFN's Legislative Committee held a Subsistence Leadership Forum on October 25, 2006, to discuss these issues and to develop a pro-active strategy for protecting subsistence for succeeding generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives strongly oppose all actions that serve to weaken federal protections for our subsistence way of life, such as the State's efforts to transform the federal subsistence management system; its renewed litigation over the scope of federal management; efforts to weaken the Regional Advisory Councils; regulatory, procedural, and organizational problems with federal subsistence management; and the danger that urban growth will cause increased competition for limited resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor is requested to withdraw its lawsuit challenging the regulations adopted in 1999 to implement the first *Katie John* decision extending federal jurisdiction to federally reserved waters in Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2006 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, adopt the attached "Recommendations of the AFN Subsistence Leadership Forum and Workshop on Maintaining our Traditional Way of Life" to direct proactive initiatives to protect our traditional way of life.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### AFN Subsistence Leadership Forum and Workshop on Maintaining Our Traditional Way of Life, October 25 & 26, 2006

We will take a strong, proactive approach to maintaining the Alaska Native traditional way of life, including advancing our right to manage rather than to be managed, educating and encouraging our youth and allies, uniting and using our resources as tribes and corporations, reforming and restructuring the federal management system, strengthening the RACs, and by asserting our international human rights as indigenous peoples. We will do what is necessary to prevent the state and federal systems from making us into criminals for living our way of life by refusing to recognize our customary and traditional uses, declaring us to be non-rural, making our traditional gathering areas into non-subsistence use areas, flooding us with regulations or burying us with paper. We will take the following actions to ensure the protection of our way of life.

1. Form a statewide Alaska Native Fish and Wildlife Commission, with initial financial support of at least \$500,000. The purpose of the Commission is to be proactive in advancing and strengthening our rights and opportunities to continue our way of life. The Commission will strengthen the Native community's ability to respond quickly and effectively to threats to subsistence; help build the scientific and management capacity of the Native community; advance the rights and opportunities for Native management; facilitate and coordinate statewide communication, including a web-site; monitor state and federal regulatory actions, court cases and other issues that affect our subsistence resources, needs and way of life; and work with others to ensure that the Native community is fully represented before the courts.

2. Strengthen the Federal Regional Advisory Councils (RACs). Seek an independent line of funding from Congress for the RACs so that they can control their own budget, meeting schedule and agenda, hire their own staff, and participate as a full and independent parts of the Federal Subsistence Board and Office of Subsistence Management. Revise federal regulations to clearly provide that the Federal Board must give the RACs deference on all important decisions related to subsistence management, including rural and customary and traditional use determinations and all other actions related to taking subsistence resources. Oppose the establishment of an 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Advisory Committee to serve the Kenai Peninsula and require that a full EIS be prepared before any new RAC can be established. With respect to the 70/30 rule pertaining to membership on the Regional Advisory Councils, participate in the current rulemaking process: submit comments by November 13 on an alternative option to RAC composition focusing on user experience rather than the 70/30, single interest group affiliation and ensuring tribal representation on RACs; and, explore the possibility of a statutory FACA exemption using the precedent available under the MMPA

3. Reform the federal management system. The Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) must be managed independently from the FWS. OSM's budget should not be part of the FWS budget. Alaska Natives are under-represented on OSM staff. At the very least, the deputy director should be an Alaska Native or a person nominated by Alaska Natives. OSM should be clear that its mission is to implement the subsistence priority and rights granted in ANILCA. Request that the USFWS Alaska Regional Director consult with the Native community on the appointment of the new Director of OSM, and that all members of the Federal Subsistence Board and a RAC representative (chosen by the RACs) be involved in the interviewing and hiring of the OSM Director rather than the FWS acting alone.

4. Reform the Federal Subsistence Board. Prohibit the Board from holding executive sessions except for issues requiring confidentiality. All votes on issues of policy should be on the record and should not be taken in executive session. Board members should be educated about the traditional Native way of life. Board members should clearly understand their responsibility to fully implement Title VIII in a way that protects the subsistence way of life rather than being influenced by politics that favor sport and commercial uses or to accommodate state management or a goal of unified management.

5. Protect Native communities from losing subsistence rights because they are declared non-rural. Provide testimony before the Federal Subsistence Board insisting that communities currently considered “rural” retain that status. Petition the Secretary for amendments to the regulations implementing the rural priority to ensure that future rural status reviews do not result in the future elimination of Alaska Native tribes or communities.

6. Meet with the Secretary of the Interior to emphasize the trust obligation the federal government has to Alaska Natives. The newly appointed Secretary must be clear on commitments made to Alaska Natives by Congress in ANCSA and ANILCA to protect their subsistence rights. It is imperative that we urge him to reject any attempt by the State of Alaska or special interest groups to repeal or weaken federal subsistence protections. Urge the Secretary and our congressional delegation to consult with the Alaska Native community on the appointment of the Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior for Alaska Affairs, the position formerly held by Drue Pearce.

7. Resist any attempt by the Federal Board to deny a tribe Customary and Traditional use of its traditional territory. Closely monitor and respond to any federal proposals to change the criteria for making C&T determinations and for deciding when to close public lands to subsistence and non-subsistence uses. Support the Ninilchik tribe in its struggle to establish C&T use on the Kenai Peninsula.

8. Assist Natives of the Ahtna region in their efforts to oppose additional restrictions on their ability to subsistence hunt and fish on state lands, including the creation of a super-exclusive subsistence area. Oppose the creation of additional non-subsistence use areas by the State Joint Boards of Fish and Game.

9. Commission a legal and historical analysis of the of Alaska Native self-determination and fishing, hunting and gathering rights from an international human rights perspective including an analysis of the territorial policies of the United States, the effect of the Alaska Statehood Act, ANCSA and ANILCA and the subsequent policies and actions of the State of Alaska and the United States. The history of these rights should be documented and analyzed so that they can be addressed under existing and emerging principles of international human rights law

10. Ensure that all federal land management agencies in Alaska perform consistent and current 810 analyses of non-subsistence activities on the lands they manage before those activities begin to have the potential to significantly restrict subsistence. Require that all federal agencies performing an EIS for non-subsistence uses on federal public lands anywhere in Alaska adopt and implement a policy of promptly inviting tribes or tribal consortia and local governments to participate as Cooperating Agencies at the earliest possible stage of the EIS process.

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-02

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF NATIVE AMERICANS FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE SBA 8(a) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Congress has a legitimate interest in promoting the economic and political self-sufficiency of Native Americans as a way to fulfill the government's unique obligations toward Native Americans; and

WHEREAS: In hundreds of treaties with Indian tribes across the country, and through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the U.S. government committed to provide for the economic betterment of Native Americans and Alaska Natives who were stripped of countless millions of acres of their Native lands; and

WHEREAS: Providing access to federal contracting opportunities to qualified Native companies provides critical incentives that stimulate economic growth in Native communities, provides economic opportunities for Native American enterprises, provides educational scholarships, and encourages a culture of entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS: One of the most successful Federal initiatives has been to include Native Americans (Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations and Native Hawaiian Organizations) in the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development program; and

WHEREAS: Federal contracting is a highly concentrated market place with the market dominated by a handful of large companies, Native American enterprises have struggled to break into this market and only recently have become successful participants in the 8(a) program; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Corporations and Tribal enterprises receive less than one percent (1%) of all federal contract awards compared to the five largest federal contractors who received twenty (20%) of the contract dollars awarded in 2005; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Corporations and Tribal enterprises provide quality performance at cost efficient rates to federal customers while they return significant benefits back to Native American communities, rendering the Native 8(a) program a rare example of a federal economic program that works; and

WHEREAS: There have been attempts made to repeal the Native 8(a) program without adequate consideration of the Federal government's unique obligations to Native Americans and the quality services that Native enterprises provide to federal customers; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes that the participation of Native Americans in the SBA 8(a) program has been an important tool in building a strong Native economy and continues to support and fund mentor-protégé programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN respectfully requests the continued support of Congress to maintain Alaska Native Corporations, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations in the 8(a) program for the benefit of America's Native communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives strongly opposes any congressional amendments, regulatory changes or other means to diminish, alter, denounce, or abolish the current provisions established in the federal procurement system allowing Native Americans to create economic development for the benefit of their respective Native communities.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-03

- TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING THE COST OF RURAL BOUND FREIGHT THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF PORT OF ANCHORAGE INTERMODAL EXPANSION PROJECT
- WHEREAS: the economic and cultural well-being of Alaska's rural communities rely on the dependable delivery of goods; and
- WHEREAS: the cost of freight shipped to rural Alaska must be affordable to the resident's of rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: the Port of Anchorage Intermodal Expansion Project intends to develop public-use barge docks so that rural-bound freight can be consolidated and shipped to rural Alaska more efficiently than from other west coast ports, and
- WHEREAS: the coastal communities of Alaska directly depend on the barge lines that bring them necessary freight and fuel oil; and
- WHEREAS: 80% of the geographic area of the state and 90% of its consumer goods are reliant upon the Port's services; and
- WHEREAS: independent studies conducted in 1999 established the Port's contribution to Alaska's economic activity as more than \$725 million annually, and
- WHEREAS: the total tonnage that crossed the docks at the Port last year was nearly five million tons; and
- WHEREAS: the cargo tonnage throughput at the Port of Anchorage has increased more than 34% since that economic figure was established; and
- WHEREAS: that total tonnage equates to more than seven tons for every resident of the state; and
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN hereby endorses and approves of the expansion of the Port of Anchorage in order to continue to serve all the people of rural and urban Alaska; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN support the Port of Anchorage in working on the reduction of freight costs to rural Alaska; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anchorage Port Authority give consideration to lower transportation tariff rates; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN send a copy of this resolution to Alaska's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Alaska and members of the Alaska State Legislature.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-04

TITLE: REQUESTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE, ALASKA BOARD OF GAME AND THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES TO INCLUDE FAMILY MEMBERS OF OUR DEPLOYED ALASKA NATIVE AND RURAL RESIDENTS IN THE NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS AND OTHER MILITARY BRANCHES IN THE ALASKA PROXY HUNTING STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

WHEREAS: The deployment of our National Guard Troops is the largest since World War II; and

WHEREAS: Many of the troops deployed from rural Alaska are primary providers of wild game and fish for their families; and

WHEREAS: According to the Institute of Social and Economic Research report on "The Status of Alaska Natives 2004," the top seven areas for consumers of wild food harvests are in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: When the deployment occurred, many of the primary providers were not able to provide for their families prior to departure due to the various hunting and fishing seasons across the state; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska statutes and regulations under A.S. 16.05.405 and 5 AAC 92.011 only allow proxy hunting for a person who is blind, physically disabled, or 65 years of age or older; and,

WHEREAS: Support for the families of our deployed troops in the National Guard and other military branches is essential for their well being as they serve our country.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by that the Delegates to the 2006 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, strongly urges the Alaska State Legislature, Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game to adopt expedited statutory and regulatory language in the Alaska proxy hunting statutes and regulations at the earliest opportunity to allow hunters to hunt and fishers to fish on behalf of families of our deployed troops in their respective villages and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any proxies utilized under these provisions will not count against any statutory or regulatory provisions limiting the total number of proxies allowed.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-05

TITLE: REQUESTING AN INVESTIGATION INTO COMPLAINTS OF INAPPROPRIATE, DISCRIMINATORY, DEMEANING AND DISCOURTEOUS CONDUCT ON THE PART OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GAME TOWARD NATIVE SUBSISTENCE USERS

WHEREAS: Sport hunters from urban areas of Alaska have been urging the Board of game for a number of years to lift the Tier II status of caribou in GMU 13; and

WHEREAS: The State Board of Game held meetings on October 7, 8 and 9 in Anchorage to consider 8 proposals directly related to units 11, 12, 13 and 20, six of which would have negatively impacted the rights of local subsistence users while opening these same units to sport and non-resident users;

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives and other local subsistence users who hunt caribou in GMU 13 came to the Board meeting in significant numbers to testify against the proposals, including many of the elders from the region; and

WHEREAS: During the public meeting, several Board members reportedly made inappropriate, demeaning and disrespectful statements to Alaska Native elders and other witnesses who appeared before the Board to testify against the proposals; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native leaders who were present during the meeting report that various Board members demonstrated a clear bias against Native subsistence users, made demeaning comments and allowed derogatory comments concerning local subsistence users from other witnesses to go unchallenged; and

WHEREAS: the Ombudsman has authority to investigate complaints against State government agencies and the Alaska Human Rights Commission has the authority to investigate complaints of discrimination based on race, color, or national ancestry.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby call upon the Alaska Ombudsman and/or the Alaska Human Rights Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice to open an investigation into the discriminatory, oppressive and discourteous conduct of members of the Board of Game toward Alaska Natives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the investigation demonstrates that members of the Board of Game engaged in inappropriate, discriminatory, oppressive or discourteous behavior, corrective action will be recommended, including removal of those members from the Board of Game; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives consider legal action against the State for the discriminatory practices of the Alaska Board of Game.

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-06

ENTITLED: HONORING JONATHON SOLOMON FOR DEDICATING HIS LIFE TO ADVOCATING FOR ALASKA NATIVES

WHEREAS: Jonathon Solomon was a Gwitchin' leader who advocated strongly for Alaska Natives' rights to maintain their cultural heritage and close relationship to the land while protecting their economic and human potential; and

WHEREAS: Jonathon embodied the strength, determination and knowledge necessary to ensure that the Alaska Native subsistence way of life is protected; and

WHEREAS: Jonathon fought for many issues during his life, but most of all he fought for caribou, Yukon River salmon, migratory birds, and other subsistence rights; and

WHEREAS: It was often Jonathon's vigor for subsistence rights that inspired other Alaska Natives to come to the table to advocate for themselves; and

WHEREAS: Jonathon was a passionate speaker who grabbed his audience's attention and demanded action; and

WHEREAS: Jonathon was brilliant when working with the administration and congress to protect subsistence rights; and

WHEREAS: Jonathon served on the RurAL CAP Board of Directors with dedication and distinction for 37 years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN recognizes and honors Jonathon Solomon for his lifetime of accomplishments and his dedication to Alaska Natives' subsistence way of life.

SUBMITTED BY: RurAL CAP

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-07

ENTITLED: HONORING FRANKLIN MADROS FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AS AN ADVOCATE FOR ALASKA NATIVES AND AN ATHABASCAN CULTURE BEARER

WHEREAS: Franklin Madros was an Athabascan leader who advocated for Alaska Natives' rights to maintain their cultural heritage and close relationship to the land while protecting their economic and human potential; and

WHEREAS: Franklin was involved with Alaska Native land claims and advocated for the health and well-being of Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Franklin was a man of character who embraced and shared his vast knowledge of Athabascan culture with the next generation; and

WHEREAS: Franklin was both respectful of others and respected by others; and

WHEREAS: Franklin was a long-standing RurAL CAP Board member who served with dedication and distinction from the 1970's through the 1990's; and

WHEREAS: Franklin was well-loved by all and will be greatly missed by the RurAL CAP Board of Directors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN recognizes and honors Franklin Madros for his lifetime of accomplishments and his outstanding leadership as an Athabascan culture bearer.

SUBMITTED BY: RurAL CAP

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-08

TITLE: HONORING OUR ALASKA NATIVE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN  
AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS: It is the first time in sixty (60) years that a war call-up has reached the remote Native villages of Alaska and required our Alaska Native guardsmen to serve in a war overseas; and

WHEREAS: Tribal members from the villages have honorably served in the military since at least World War II as members of the Territorial Guard, and have honorably served in each war and conflict since then; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Tribes recognize the sacrifices of the brave men and women who served and now serve in the military; and

WHEREAS: Today, many Alaska Native tribal members serving in the National Guard are being deployed to war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS: Many of these guardsmen have never been away from their families and communities for very long, nor have their families been away from them; and

WHEREAS: These guardsmen have been sent to a place where the people, the culture, the language, the climate and the environment are drastically different than anything that they have ever known; and

WHEREAS: Regardless of these facts, these Alaska Native guardsmen are dedicated soldiers and are extremely proud to serve their country; and

WHEREAS: We will show our support and respect for these men and women by ensuring that we work together to care for and provide for their families in every way that we possibly can in their absence; and

WHEREAS: We will honor their efforts by assisting their families with securing the fish, sea mammals, waterfowl, greens and berries that are needed to continue their traditional subsistence way of life as well as helping their families to haul water, break trails, replace stove oil or with any other daily chores required; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives are serving in all branches of the Armed Forces and are deployed around the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS: Throughout their absences, we will keep our Alaska Native guardsmen and all of our Alaska Native military personnel in our thoughts and prayers and we will hope for their safe and speedy return.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN honor and support our Alaska Native servicemen and servicewomen and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN work to establish a memorial honoring those Alaska Native tribal members who have served in the military and in wars and conflicts, including those now serving in Iraq, and Afghanistan.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



## **SUBSISTENCE**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-09

TITLE: PROTECTING SUBSISTENCE THROUGH COASTAL  
MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Coastal Management Program has been an important means to protect subsistence resources and uses for 30 years; and

WHEREAS: Enforceable policies are the primary tool of Alaska coastal districts to protect subsistence resources and uses from adverse effects from development projects; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Natural Resources repeatedly assured the Alaska State Legislature in 2003 that coastal districts would retain the ability to develop enforceable policies to protect subsistence resources and uses; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Natural Resources is requiring coastal districts to designate specific areas used for specific subsistence uses without adequate funding; and

WHEREAS: Many coastal districts are in the final stages of revising their coastal management plans; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Natural Resource has either denied or proposed to deny the subsistence policies of the draft coastal management plans; and;

WHEREAS: The coastal areas are presently under research for effects of global warming to learn where, and how, sea mammals will be impacted.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that the new governor is encouraged to reconsider the decision of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new governor work with the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. and Alaska's coastal districts to find a way to approve enforceable policies that protect subsistence uses and resources and to remove the requirement that specific areas be designated for subsistence use.

SUBMITTED BY:               BERING STRAITS COASTAL RESOURCE SERVICE AREA

COMMITTEE ACTION:       DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:     AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-10

- TITLE: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE STATUS CHANGES FOR INDIGENOUS NATIVE PEOPLE OF ALASKA
- WHEREAS: Subsistence has been a customary and traditional way of life for Indigenous Native people of Alaska for thousands of years; and
- WHEREAS: Alaskan Native people across the State rely on the customary and traditional practice of barter and exchange of customary and traditional resources as we have since time immemorial to maintain our relationships with each other and our ties to the foods that our lands and waters provide; and
- WHEREAS: Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA) defines “subsistence uses” as the “customary and traditional uses by *rural* Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation and for other purposes and provides a priority for the subsistence uses of renewable resources by *rural* residents of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: ANILCA gave rural Alaskans a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands and water; and
- WHEREAS: After the 1989 Alaska Supreme Court’s ruling in *McDowell* holding that the State’s rural priority violated Alaska’s Constitution, the Federal Subsistence Board is required, among other things, to provide for regulations to implement Title VIII of ANILCA, to make determinations as to which communities in Alaska are rural in nature, and to review the rural/non-rural determinations on a 10-year cycle to determine a community’s status as rural or non-rural; and
- WHEREAS: Those communities classified as rural are able to continue to enjoy a priority for subsistence hunting and fishing on the federal public lands; and
- WHEREAS: The Federal Subsistence Board is currently seeking public comment on the rural/non-rural characteristics of communities in Alaska and will hold its last public meeting prior to issuing its final rule on rural/non-rural designations on December 12-13, 2006; and
- WHEREAS: The rural status of some communities and areas such as Sitka, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Saxman, Ninilchik and others may be impacted by the proposed rural/non-rural determinations of the Federal Subsistence Board; and
- WHEREAS: A determination that a community is nonrural will eliminated the customary and traditional way of life for Indigenous people living in these areas; and
- WHEREAS: The Federal Government has a trust or special relationship with the Indigenous Native people of Alaska that carries with it the solemn responsibility to protect our rights; and

WHEREAS: The Federal government is not honoring its trust responsibility to the Indigenous people of Alaska by including them in a rural/non-rural status debate; and

WHEREAS: The traditional way of life for Indigenous people of Alaska should remain intact regardless of the rural/non-rural status of the area or community in which they live; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Government has a responsibility to consult with indigenous people prior to making changes that affect our traditional way of life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., recognize the grave implications a decision by the Federal Subsistence Board to re-designate a community from rural to non-rural would have on the Alaska Native residents of that community and thus urge AFN to support the retention of the rural status of those communities now considered rural; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Subsistence Board respect the current government-to-government relationship with the Indigenous people of Alaska and that it protect the Alaska Native customary and traditional way of life by allowing those communities and areas currently considered rural to continue to have rural status, and by exempting all Indigenous people of Alaska from ever being affected by a change in their community's or area's rural/non-rural status.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG, INC., KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION, KETCHIKAN INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL COUNCIL, ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF SAXMAN, SITKA TRIBE OF ALASKA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-11

TITLE: PROTECTION OF TIER II SUBSISTENCE HUNTING RIGHTS

WHEREAS: Under the Alaska Supreme Court's holdings, all Alaska residents are recognized as subsistence users; and

WHEREAS: This has resulted in the adoption of the "all-Alaskan policy" creating intense hunting pressure on game resources on the road-system; and

WHEREAS: Under state law, if the harvestable portion of a fish or game stock is not sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses, the Alaska Board of Game is authorized to adopt regulations that eliminate other consumptive uses and make choices among subsistence users based on their customary and direct dependence on the wildlife population, and their ability to obtain food elsewhere if subsistence uses is restricted or eliminated; and

WHEREAS: When a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses cannot be provided, even after eliminating all nonsubsistence uses, the Board of Game is required to adopt a "Tier II" permit system which distinguishes between Alaskan residents based on two criteria: customary and direct dependence on the game population as a mainstay of livelihood (60 points) and the ability to obtain food if subsistence use is restricted or eliminated (40 points); and

WHEREAS: The Board of Game has adopted Tier II hunts for certain game units, including the Nelchina caribou herd in GMU 13; and

WHEREAS: As a result of the All-Alaska policy, the Amount Necessary for Subsistence uses (ANS) for the Nelchina caribou herd is "all harvestable surplus" in order to provide subsistence uses for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The harvestable surplus of the Nelchina caribou herd has not nor ever will be sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses for all Alaskans, resulting in a possible permanent Tier II status for all Alaskans to harvest caribou in GMU 13; and,

WHEREAS: Sport hunters from urban areas have been urging the Board to lift the Tier II status of caribou in GMU 13;

WHEREAS: The State Board of Game held meetings on October 7, 8 and 9 to consider 8 proposals directly related to units 11, 12, 13 and 20, six (6) of which would have negatively impacted the rights of local subsistence users while opening these same units to sport and non-resident use; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Game expressed concern that the existing Tier II permit system was being manipulated by urban residents who were not true subsistence users; and

WHEREAS: In response to its concern that the current Tier II system was being abused, the Board of Game sponsored proposal three (3) that would have created a super exclusive hunt area wherein subsistence uses would be restricted while opening certain lands within units 11, 12, 13 and 20 to sport and non-resident use without similar restrictions; and

WHEREAS: Proposed regulatory restrictions for subsistence users included but were not limited to the following: severely limited use area, one permit per household, no hunting of any other game in any other units, vehicle weight restrictions, split antlers, etc., with no similar restrictions imposed on sport or non-residents hunters; and

WHEREAS: Although the Board decided to not adopt Proposal 3, it revisited the customary and traditional uses of moose and caribou for the purpose of adopting findings to support additional restrictions on subsistence uses and to lower the ANS so as to provide a sport hunt; and

WHEREAS: The Board will take up consideration of the ANS for caribou and moose in GMU 13 when it next meets in Wrangell, Alaska, on November 6, 2006 at a time and location when no public testimony will be provided by those most directly impacted by a decision on ANS amounts; and

WHEREAS: Subsistence users in the Ahtna region and on the road system will be negatively impacted if the Board elects to reduce the ANS amounts for subsistence uses or to do away with the Tier II permit system; and

WHEREAS: The Ahtna region recognizes that the Tier II application process is flawed, but continues to support the existing Tier II regulation as the best protection for subsistence rights until such time as the Tier II application and point system and process can be revised to ensure that true subsistence users receive permits; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Game needs to meet its responsibility to protect subsistence rights by revising the Tier II point system to reduce abuse by ineligible applicants and provide enforcement to punish those currently abusing the system; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Game is potentially establishing precedent with the adoption of additional restrictive regulations for subsistence users which may then be applied to other regions in the state as related to subsistence

use; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Game is attempting to open certain units to sport and non-resident use in violation of the Tier II regulation in times of shortage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that:

1. AFN urges the State Boards of Fish and Game to revise the existing Tier II application process by simplifying the application and revising the point system to give extra points for the cost of locally purchased food and gasoline; and
2. AFN urges the Department of Public Safety and ADF&G to provide enforcement and punishment of those abusing the existing Tier II application process; and
3. AFN urges the State Board of Game to discontinue its efforts to further restrict subsistence users unduly by imposing unwarranted restrictions for means and methods and if such restrictions are adopted to impose the same restrictions on all users to include sport and non-resident users; and
4. AFN urges the State Board of Game to cease its efforts to further restrict subsistence user means and methods by readdressing customary and traditional use; and
5. AFN urges the State Board of Game to not adopt new ANS amounts for caribou and moose in GMU 13 at its next meeting.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA, INCORPORATED, CHEESH'NA TRIBAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-12

- TITLE:** REASSERTION OF THE STATE OF ALASKA'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FOR AMOUNTS NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE, REASONABLE HARVEST OPPORTUNITY AND REGAIN COMPLIANCE WITH RELATED STATUTORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS
- WHEREAS:** Moose remain an extremely important subsistence resource for people throughout Alaska, yet populations have undergone significant declines of 75-80% in many areas over the last decade where long-term consistent human harvest has not been determined a major contributing factor, and according to the majority of local knowledge along with the most direct and credible scientific information available, the main driving influence on decreased moose numbers is primarily attributable to increased numbers of predator populations since the early 1990's, when animal welfare proponents substantially elevated imposition of their opinions on the State through political manipulations; and
- WHEREAS:** The Association of Village Council Presidents, Bristol Bay Native Association and Tanana Chiefs Conference, have all expressed high levels of concern about this situation, repeatedly requesting that predator management programs be implemented in their respective areas through AFN Resolution #'s 00-47, 01-07, 02-12, 03-08, 04-08, 04-09, and 05-13 (reaffirmed and incorporated here by reference) that have passed the Alaska Federation of Natives for the last six years; and
- WHEREAS:** A few existing predator management programs, some of which have been on the books for 15 years or more, have only recently been implemented or reactivated after their prohibition in the early 1990's, brought on through successful public manipulation by animal welfare groups that resulted in long-term lack of administrative support; and
- WHEREAS:** Efforts are being repeated by animal welfare advocates through another lawsuit filed in August, 2006, citing "a lack of sufficient scientific information" and the lack of "public support", to effectively stop the few predator management programs that are underway and prevent the state department of fish & game from utilizing these or similar programs as a viable management tool at any time in the future; and

WHEREAS: Such statements discount or completely disregard the “public support”, and concerns for subsistence interests that are clearly stated in the AFN Resolutions referenced above, or dismiss that membership as a “public” whose interests and support is not worthwhile or of lesser importance in this issue; and

WHEREAS: Despite statements from organizational representatives or others who make public claims to support predator management, but only if “it is based on sound science”, it has become increasingly clear in recent decades that no amount of scientific information will ever be adequate to satisfy those groups or individuals who incorporate philosophical or moral superiority arguments into opposing predator management programs in bush Alaska, and who will simply continue to label any science as “good”, “bad”, or “insufficient” depending only upon whether they agree with those values and opinions – real applied “science” for most will have little bearing, regardless of source or merit; and

WHEREAS: A key observation of the National Academy of Sciences report (Wolves, Bears, and Their Prey in Alaska contracted by the State from 1994-97) was that it was difficult to assess many of Alaska’s predator management programs because they were consistently stopped (mainly through political action/interference) within a few years rather than being conducted for the full duration (of up to 5 or more years) originally and scientifically deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS: Failure to actively incorporate and implement predator management programs as a basic management function undermines the state’s subsistence priority law and related regulations governing the determination of amounts necessary for subsistence uses and providing a reasonable harvest opportunity; and

WHEREAS: Allowing moose populations to become depleted and remain at low levels violates the Alaska Constitution which mandates, among other things, principles of maximum use and benefit, common use, sustained yield, broad diversity of use, and uniform application for all those similarly situated regarding the subject matter at hand.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Federation of Natives and member organizations are requested to consider intervening in the lawsuit filed by Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance against the State of Alaska to halt predator management programs based on the opposing opinions of their “scientists” which are inconsistent with direct year-round local environmental knowledge and the opinions of area management biologists and, which in the past has resulted in the State of Alaska failing to manage for amounts necessary for subsistence and reasonable harvest opportunity, and to be out of compliance with at least 5 sections of Article VIII’s constitutional standards and principles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in the future the critics of predator management programs should be required to provide conclusive scientific evidence that such programs are not effective in achieving their intended purposes, which are to increase the number of moose available for subsistence harvest, provide for a reasonable harvest opportunity and to comply with constitutional standards before predator management programs can be suspended or discontinued by political or administrative actions based on speculation, abstract scientific assertions, philosophical or social differences of opinion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AFN continue to actively follow-up on this resolution and further develop the issue in accordance with this and prior AFN Tier 1 resolutions.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-13

TITLE: REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE TO RECOGNIZE THE FALL MIGRATORY BIRD HUNT IN RURAL ALASKA AS A “SUBSISTENCE HUNT”

WHEREAS: In the North Slope of Alaska, several wildlife enforcement officers approached indigenous hunters notifying them that, as of September 1, the hunt is now recognized as a “sport hunt;” and

WHEREAS: The Indigenous Peoples of Alaska, for millennia, harvested migratory birds in all seasons in a customary and traditional manner; and

WHEREAS: Recently, a federal official referred to and associated fall hunters in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta as “sport hunters; and

WHEREAS: Practicing a customary and traditional hunt of migratory birds for the sole purpose of feeding our families and continuing the traditions of the hunt should never be referred to as a “sport hunt.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Federation of Natives strongly urges the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and all other agencies refer to and regard the fall migratory bird hunt in rural Alaska as a “subsistence hunt;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives is strongly urged to seek to redefine the term “indigenous inhabitant” under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act so that the term “indigenous inhabitant” means Alaska Natives only; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USFWS is urged to amend the fall harvest regulations to legalize the subsistence harvest that occurs.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-14

**TITLE:** REQUESTING DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE AND ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE TO WITHDRAW THEIR LAWSUIT TO STOP THE STATE OF ALASKA'S PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND CEASE MAKING INACCURATE PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THEIR OPINIONS REPRESENT "ALL THE PUBLIC INTERESTS" UNTIL THEY HAVE CONSULTED WITH, AND OBTAINED CONCURRENCE OR PERMISSION OF, ALL AFFECTED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS ON THE ISSUE

**WHEREAS:** Alaska's Native community has repeatedly expressed its strong concerns, desire and support of predator management programs to be implemented in their respective areas to provide for basic subsistence needs through AFN Resolution Numbers 00-47, 01-07, 02-12, 03-08, 04-08, 04-09 and 05-13 (reaffirmed and incorporated here be reference) that have passed the AFN Convention unanimously for the last six years; and

**WHEREAS:** Moose, an extremely important subsistence resource for people throughout Alaska, have undergone significant declines of as much as 75-80% in many areas where long-term consistent human harvest and environmental conditions have not been determined a major contributing factor, and according to the majority of local knowledge along with the most direct and credible scientific information available, the main driving influence on decreased moose numbers is primarily due to increased numbers of predator populations since the ballot initiatives of 1996 and 2000 were fostered and imposed on the entire state by animal welfare organization proponents; and

**WHEREAS:** These concerns as expressed have become especially manifested in the Kuskokwim region where large customary and traditional subsistence use areas of former high moose numbers such as GMU 19A (which still retains highly productive but now unutilized habitat, high pregnancy and birth rates, but very poor calf survival or population recruitment), have been severely restricted to Tier II subsistence drawing hunts only, or closed completely to all subsistence hunting opportunity; and

**WHEREAS:** AFN Resolution #04-09 directly informed Defenders of Wildlife and other conservation groups critical of predator management programs in Alaska that their activities were hurtful at best and hostile at worst to providing for subsistence needs and requested that they work with the people most directly and negatively affected rather than against us; and

WHEREAS: To date there has been no known acknowledgement much less response to this request by Defenders or its affiliates in this matter, and instead our concerns have in essence been rejected with the filing of yet another “technical” legal challenge by Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance to the State’s few predator management programs on August 25, 2006, citing a lack of sufficient “scientific information” or “public support”; and

WHEREAS: Such actions either discount or completely disregard the “public support” for these programs and concerns for subsistence interests that are clearly stated in the AFN Resolutions referenced above, or dismiss AFN’s membership as a “public” whose interests and support is not worthwhile or worthy of consideration on this issue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2006 Annual Convention believe that public statements and press releases made by Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance in their current lawsuit that claim “predator management program decisions stem from individuals who have no regard for sound science, the will of the public and who have no long-term vision for the management of Alaska’s natural heritage” are insensitive at best and insulting at worst to the long sought recognition and implementation of these programs by Alaska village residents; are against the best interests of providing for subsistence needs in Alaska’s Native villages; and are in direct conflict with traditional environmental knowledge and other concerns expressed in the AFN resolutions for the past six years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Delegates demand that unless the Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance do not wish to recognize Alaska Native villages or bush Alaska residents as having a legitimate public interest on this issue, they stop saying that their activities represent “all the public” until they have consulted with, and obtained documented permission of all affected Tribal organizations throughout the Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim and Yukon River drainages, and other regions affected by this issue, and in the future they are requested to please have the courtesy, decency, integrity or accountability to make such statements accurately reflect that the public they represent is their own constituency - not everyone else and most certainly not ours!

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT by the Delegates that if Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance truly support Alaska's subsistence priority and reasonable subsistence harvest opportunity as they have publicly stated in the past, they would withdraw their lawsuit to stop the State of Alaska's predator management programs.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-15

TITLE: REQUESTING AFN SUPPORT FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCE SERVICE AREAS (CRSA'S) OF THE STATE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES FOR SUBSISTENCE ON AN AREA-WIDE BASIS AND OPPOSE EFFORTS TO MAKE POCKET-SIZED, POSTAGE-SIZED DESIGNATION FOR SUBSISTENCE

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska, through the Department of Natural Resources, proposes that the Commissioner of Natural Resources not approve local enforceable policies that protect subsistence uses by denying area-wide subsistence designation and instead wants pocket-sized, postage-size stamped designation for subsistence. Although this proposed decision would not directly prohibit where someone hunts or fishes, coastal districts would lose their ability to protect subsistence uses from effects of development projects; and

WHEREAS: Villages located in the State of Alaska's CRSA's are very concerned about this development as they and their ancestors have subsisted on an area wide basis since time immemorial and although the CRSAs are state chartered, they believe that any assistance that they can provide CRSA's will be well worth the effort.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports CRSAs in their efforts to maintain enforceable policies for subsistence on an area-wide basis and oppose efforts to make pocket-sized, postage-sized subsistence designations.

SPONSORED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



## **HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-16

TITLE: A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO STATE OF ALASKA LICENSING LAWS AFFECTING SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE DISABLED OR HOMEBOUND NEEDING HOMECARE ASSISTANCE THAT DESIRE TO STAY WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY AND TO MAKE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO PROVIDE SAID SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE DISABLED OR HOMEBOUND

WHEREAS: The North Slope Borough Senior Advisory Board is a voluntary group of Arctic Slope based elders who regularly meet to discuss the life, health, and welfare programs and care for their respective Inupiat Elders who are either disabled and/or homebound; and

WHEREAS: The North Slope Borough Senior Advisory Board recognizes and acknowledges the need for Senior Citizens to be afforded the opportunity to stay with their immediate family members as homecare providers within their respective private home in accordance with the State of Alaska laws, but are not able to receive the needed homecare assistance due to low income status; and

WHEREAS: The North Slope Borough Senior Advisory Board desire to have the funding stipulations for Senior Citizens to receive disabled and homecare assistance programs and services within Bush Alaska by their immediate family members due to their respective illnesses and/or disabilities; and

WHEREAS: The North Slope Borough Senior Advisory Board understands and respects the wish for an elderly person who desires to stay within their home and community and not be sent out to an assisted home in another community; and

WHEREAS: The required training to become licensed homecare providers is not readily available in Bush Alaska for immediate family members to provide homecare services and for their loved ones to receive funds for their daily homecare needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc, that AFN:

1. Lobby the State of Alaska Legislature to amend the criteria for grant funding eligibility to include immediate family members as homecare assistance providers without having to be licensed in accordance with Alaska Statute 18.18.200; and

2. That Disabled and Homebound Senior Citizens immediate family members be trained to provide homecare assistance programs to become eligible to receive such funding due to low income status of senior citizens who desire to stay within their respective homes in their community.

SUBMITTED BY: NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS WITH A RECOMMENDATION TO WORK JOINTLY WITH ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH BOARD AND ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-17

TITLE: SUPPORTING SONYA IVANOFF LAW

WHEREAS: A police officer was recently convicted of murder in the first degree in the death of 19 year old Alaska Native Sonya Ivanoff and sentenced to 99 years of imprisonment; and

WHEREAS: AS 12.55.125, provides in part that a Defendant convicted of murder in the first degree shall be sentenced to a mandatory term of imprisonment of 99 years when the defendant is convicted of murder of a uniformed or otherwise clearly identified peace officer, fire fighter, or correctional employee who was engaged in the performance of official duties at the time of the murder; and

WHEREAS: the State attorney cited AS 12.55.125 as justification for imposing a sentence of 99 years of imprisonment for the police officer who murdered Sonya Ivanoff; and

WHEREAS: the State's attorney opined during the sentencing hearing that an equivalent sentence should result if a police officer is convicted of murder in the first degree for a crime that is committed while the officer is on duty; and

WHEREAS: the Presiding Judge agreed with the State's attorney's rationale and imposed the maximum sentence of 99 years of imprisonment for the police officer who brutally murdered Sonya Ivanoff while he was on duty; and

WHEREAS: the Alaska Legislature has an opportunity to restore confidence in the Justice System for ALL ALASKA RESIDENTS, no matter where they live, and assure that justice is equally applied for all residents; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. believes that more stringent sentencing guidelines need to be enacted to reflect the State's desire to bring to justice ALL criminals, whether or not they are uniformed, and a higher sentencing standard should be applied to peace officers who are convicted of committing murder in the first degree while on duty; and

WHEREAS: Peace officers convicted of committing murder in the first degree should be sentenced to 99 years without the possibility of parole.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN hereby requests that our regional delegation to the Alaska State Legislature, Senator Donald Olson, Representative Richard Foster and the Representative Reginald Joule, sponsor a bill amending AS 12.55.125 to include language adding a paragraph (5) as follows:

5. The defendant is a uniformed or otherwise clearly identified peace officer, fire fighter, or correctional employee who was on duty at the time of the murder. This provision shall be known as "The Sonya Ivanoff Law."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bill also includes the following language:

The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. The Act applies to offenses or acts committed on or after the effective date of this Act.

This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070 (c).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. hereby requests the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor to support passage and enactment of this bill.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC AND NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



# **CULTURAL**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-18

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF ALASKA  
NATIVE INMATES

WHEREAS: Alaska Statute 10.20.695 authorizes action by directors of a non profit corporation without conducting a meeting if a consent in writing, setting out the action taken, shall be signed by all of the members entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter; and

WHEREAS: the Alaska Native Justice Center is concerned with and advocates for the human rights and equitable treatment of incarcerated Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: the religious freedom of Alaska Natives is guaranteed under the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Alaska, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (42 USCS § 2000cc), and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (43 U.S.C. § 1996); and

WHEREAS: the ability of incarcerated Alaska Natives to engage in religious practice is beneficial to rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS: ceremonial sweat lodges are one form of religious expression; and

WHEREAS: the religious expression of Alaska Natives is vital to preserving culture and tradition; and

WHEREAS: the maintenance of traditional religious practice among incarcerated Alaska Natives preserves continuity with the community upon release.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN urges the Attorney General of the State of Alaska to issue a directive to the Alaska Department of Corrections to abide by current laws and policies that ensure the right of Alaska Natives to the free exercise of religion, including the right of incarcerated Alaska Natives to participate in ceremonial sweat lodges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. urges the Alaska Department of Corrections to adopt a policy specifically guaranteeing the religious freedom of incarcerated Alaska Natives and American Indians, including, but not limited to procedures for sweat lodge activities, in its Policies and Procedures.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA NATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-19

TITLE: OPPOSITION TO REINSTATEMENT OF DEATH PENALTY IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives are concerned with and advocates for equitable treatment of Alaska Natives within the criminal justice system; and,

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives account for only 17% of the state's prison-age population, yet, 38% of the jail population is comprised of Alaska Natives; and,

WHEREAS: there is significant evidence of racial bias toward economically disadvantaged members of ethnic minorities in administration of the death penalty in other jurisdictions; and,

WHEREAS: there is substantial concern among the Native community, and no evidence to the contrary, that in all likelihood the Alaska system of criminal jurisprudence is not capable of avoiding racial bias in the trial process; and,

WHEREAS: the majority of Alaska Natives and people residing in rural areas of the state do not have the means to acquire adequate legal defense counsel when charged with serious crimes; and,

WHEREAS: establishing a death penalty law and implementing it will cost millions of dollars and thereby deprive Alaska Natives and their communities of critical resources for service programs that focus on crime prevention; and,

WHEREAS: Native American tribes and organizations have historically opposed the death penalty as demonstrated by past actions to defeat federal death penalty legislation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN is opposed to the reinstatement of the death penalty in the State of Alaska; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges rural and urban legislators alike to oppose any effort to reinstate the death penalty in Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA NATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



## **LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-20

TITLE: CLIMATE CHANGE IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have developed unique cultures that evolved over thousands of years, molded, in part, by environment and climate, and climate change is likely to have significant impacts on the availability of subsistence foods such as salmon, whales, seals, caribou, berries, plants, and waterfowl that present serious challenges to subsistence ways of life in Alaska and other regions; and

WHEREAS: As stated in the 2004 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, there is international scientific consensus that carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gasses released into the atmosphere have a profound warming effect on the Earth's climate. The 2001 Third Assessment Report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the 2000 U. S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) First National Assessment, and Snowchange 2005 (an international indigenous meeting on climate change) indicate that climate change has begun; and

WHEREAS: Over the past 40 years, annual temperatures in Alaska have increased 4 degrees F and over the next 100 years, under a moderate emissions scenario, the annual average temperatures are projected to rise 5-9 degrees F over land and up to 13 degrees F over the oceans; and

WHEREAS: Warming permafrost throughout most of Alaska is undermining Alaska's roads and utility infrastructure, pipelines and buildings, affecting the availability of groundwater and surface water, and contributing to increased erosion along coasts and rivers; and

WHEREAS: Unpredictable weather, snow, and ice conditions make travel and traditional hunting and fishing practices more hazardous, thus endangering our lives; and

WHEREAS: Climate change is impacting entire ecosystems and is threatening many species of Alaska wildlife by changing habitat, insect populations, snow and ice cover, unpredictable weather, changes in precipitation and water levels in rivers and lakes, and increased air and water temperatures that are creating diseases in plants, wildlife and fish; and

WHEREAS: The increase in air and sea temperatures will result in a significant rise in sea level caused by melting ice that will adversely effect Alaskan communities and ecosystems by exposure to more intensified storm driven waves; and

WHEREAS: Climate-related changes to the weather, food sources, and local landscapes undermine the social identity and cultural survival of Alaska Natives and create new challenges for community health and rural infrastructure; rural economies that will be affected, including commercial fisheries, oil and gas development, tourism, and timber harvesting, as well the challenges of covering the enormous cost of relocating flooded villages; and

WHEREAS: Actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy use, saving money, and preventing melting permafrost from eroding away homes,

shorelines and entire villages; and

WHEREAS: The International Polar Year (IPY) will commence in 2007 and end in 2008, during which scientists and institutions across the Arctic will focus on global climate change research in the Arctic, with an emphasis on local monitoring.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., and all of our Alaska Native leadership consider the following courses of action:

1. Urge the Alaska Congressional delegation, the United States Congress and the President of the United States to move forward on a national, mandatory program to reduce climate change pollution and promote the development and adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies within a timeframe that prevents irreversible harm to public health, the economy and the environment.
2. Urge the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor of Alaska to promote, through legislation and regulations, the development and adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies within a timeframe that prevents irreversible harm to public health, the economy and the environment.
3. Support active involvement and participation of Alaska Native communities and organizations in scientific research, monitoring, planning, and policy-making related to climate change projects and initiatives in Alaska, and notifying all appropriate domestic and international agencies and institutions of this position.
4. Support the creation of forums for Alaska Native communities and organizations to deliberate on and plan for climate change impacts in their areas.
5. Urge the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. to consider establishing a Climate Change Committee within AFN's Board structure to deal with questions of climate change policy and other appropriate issues.
6. Develop a comprehensive strategic plan to assist Alaska Native communities and organizations assess and plan for climate change impacts to cultures, economies, community well-being, human health, fish, wildlife, habitat, and environment.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE COMMISSION & INUIT  
CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL, AKIAK NATIVE COMMUNITY,  
CHITINA NATIVE CORPORATION, KAWERAK, INC.,  
SHAKTOOLIK NATIVE CORPORATION, BRISTOL BAY  
NATIVE ASSOCIATION, ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE  
COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



## **EDUCATION**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-21

TITLE: AFFIRMING THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS OF NATIVE CHILDREN AND CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE INJUSTICES

WHEREAS: The history of education in Native Alaska includes years of forced separation, during which Native children were removed from their families, communities, and cultures and assimilated into foreign environments in the name of education; and

WHEREAS: We, the indigenous people of Alaska, have a right to regain and retain local control over the education of our own children; and

WHEREAS: The United States Federal Government and the government of the State of Alaska have, through their policies, reinforced a system of education that has failed to promote culturally appropriate curricula and instructional practices; and

WHEREAS: This failure is reflected in the low academic achievement rates of our Native students and in the many social ills that have plagued our communities; and

WHEREAS: Common sense dictates and research confirms that it is not only appropriate but beneficial, both socially and academically, to educate children using a culturally based model that honors their heritage and values and transmits their own cultural perspectives, knowledge, and wisdom; and

WHEREAS: It is the right of Native children, as it is the right of children everywhere, to receive an education that immerses them in the culture, values, heritage and language of their own people; and,

WHEREAS: Experience has taught us that we must take responsibility for and ownership of the education of our own children if they are to remain Native and not become the victims of the ultimate identity theft—the loss of the history, language, values, and the cultural knowledge which makes them Native and has sustained the indigenous people of Alaska for countless ages; and

WHEREAS: The circle has turned and the time has come for us to call for an end to both the intentional and unintended educational oppression of our people which has been manifested in educational policy and practice and has included patronizing curricula, assimilationist instructional environments, and biased educational materials; and

WHEREAS: We desire to exercise our rights as Native people and as parents to take an active and dominant role in the education of our children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that we affirm the right of all Native people to take control and ownership of the education of their own children and affirm the right of Native people to an educational system reflective of their cultures, heritage, languages and values including meaningful oversight of the educational process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the spirit of reconciliation and cultural healing, we invite all Native peoples to join together in calling upon the government of this great land to acknowledge the injustices made in the enforcement of the educational policies governing Native people.

SUBMITTED BY: NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-22

- TITLE: URGING REGIONAL NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS TO COLLABORATE WITH THEIR REGION'S TRIBES AND THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION, ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA SCHOOL BOARDS AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INCORPORATE THE REGION'S CULTURES AND LANGUAGES INTO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CURRICULUM
- WHEREAS: The various school districts within the boundaries of the State of Alaska provide the educational functions to the region's indigenous people in all of the villages of the Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: The population of the students within those school districts, where the indigenous languages are intact and in practice, are predominantly Alaska Native language speaking students; and
- WHEREAS: The curriculum of those school districts is strictly or predominantly taught utilizing the Western cultures, subjects and language (English) and the cultures of this region are not part of the curriculum taught in the schools; and
- WHEREAS: The only time that indigenous cultures and languages are taught in those school districts are during what are commonly referred to as "Cultural Heritage Week" and this is just one (1) week duration in the entire school year; and
- WHEREAS: The current AFN Mission Statement states, "The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community;" and
- WHEREAS: Tribes believe that incorporating the region's cultures and traditions into the regional or local school district's curriculum would fulfill AFN's Mission Statement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN collaborate with the region's tribes, regional non-profit corporation, the regional and local school districts, the Superintendents' Association, Association of Alaska School Boards, and the State Board of Education to incorporate the region's cultures and languages into the school district's curriculum, particularly in those school districts in which indigenous languages are intact and in practice.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-23

TITLE: ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE COMMISSION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Science Commission was created by resolution of the Alaska Federation of Natives in 1994 for the purposes of increasing Alaska Native involvement and participation in scientific research conducted in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Science Commission, governed by an Alaska Native Board of Commissioners from throughout Alaska, has a mission to endorse and support scientific research that enhances and perpetuates Alaska Native cultures and works to ensure the protection of indigenous cultures and intellectual property in the conduct of scientific research and in policy formulation; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Science Commission has a proven track record over the past twelve years of accomplishments that include: ensuring the inclusion of local and traditional knowledge into research and science, actively seeking participation of Alaska Natives at all levels of science and scientific research, promoting science and traditional knowledge and wisdom to Alaska Native youth, ensuring that Alaska Native peoples share in the economic benefits derived from their intellectual property, educating scientists and the general public about the value and importance of traditional knowledge and wisdom in local, national, and international forums and media, promoting protocols for proper relationships with Alaska Native peoples in the conduct of research, and active participation of tribes in scientific research in their communities; and

WHEREAS: The National Science Foundation that provided the base funding for the Alaska Native Science Commission for the past decade has ended its financial support to the Commission, resulting in lack of sufficient funds to continue essential services provided by ANSC; and

WHEREAS: There is no other statewide Alaska Native entity that provides the type of educational and technical services provided by the Alaska Native Science Commission; and

WHEREAS: Scientific research is increasing in all areas of inquiry throughout Alaska and will continue to increase in the foreseeable future in such areas as global climate change, pollutants in the environment and subsistence foods, monitoring of wildlife populations, human health, and human and animal diseases; and

WHEREAS: With the increase of scientific activity in Alaska in areas directly affecting Alaska Natives and our collective interests, there is a greater need now more than ever to ensure that the institutions and scientists engaged in research in Alaska meaningfully involve Alaska Natives in planning and implementation of scientific research, setting of research priorities that include local concerns and issues, and the proper use and application of traditional knowledge and wisdom.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that they strongly support the continuation of the Alaska Native Science Commission because its services are needed and essential; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives will work with the Alaska Native Science Commission in its efforts to restore adequate levels of funding so it can continue providing its services into the foreseeable future.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE COMMISSION & INUIT  
CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-24

TITLE: SUPPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE READY TO READ, READY TO LEARN TASK FORCE

WHEREAS: From earliest times, Alaska Native people in all the cultures active in AFN have understood young children's innate capabilities for learning and have demonstrated their love and caring for children, and

WHEREAS: Today, nearly half of Alaska children enter school unprepared to read or learn, yet it is well known that to make sure no child is left behind, no child should start behind; and

WHEREAS: Research shows brain connections grow dramatically from birth to age 6, affecting lifelong learning capability, and parents, child care providers and educators who read, tell stories and have positive daily interactions with young children promote children's brain development; and

WHEREAS: Investments in quality early learning programs can return from \$7 to \$17 for every dollar spent as participating children have higher literacy rates, increased graduation rates and better attitudes toward school, and, as adults, are less likely to commit crimes and are more likely to earn higher salaries; and

WHEREAS: Ready to Read, Ready to Learn is a grass-roots, community-driven initiative with support from a public-private partnership of individuals, foundations, nonprofit organizations, businesses and the State of Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN support and assist in implementing the recommendations of the Ready to Read, Ready to Learn Task Force:

1. Increase the engagement of parents, grandparents and extended family in their child's learning by providing resources and incentives.
2. Develop and increase access to quality, culturally engaging reading materials.
3. Increase proven, family centered programs by partnering with other organizations.
4. Distribute Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines in family friendly formats.

5. Implement a quality rating system to help parents evaluate child care and early learning programs and to guide program improvement.
6. Increase the professional development opportunities and qualifications for early childhood educators and provide appropriate compensation.
7. Develop a statewide system of early childhood education as an integral element of the State of Alaska's educational obligation.
8. Create a commission, council, public-private consortium or other entity to implement Task Force recommendations.
9. Develop a multi-year work plan for implementing recommendations.
10. Educate Alaskans about the social imperative of preparing children from birth to age 6 to be ready to read and learn.
11. Ensure future funding from private, nonprofit, foundation and government sources.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET REGION, INC. AND THE CIRI  
FOUNDATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-25

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE JESSE LEE HOME

WHEREAS: The Jesse Lee Home served a vital need for the children of the Territory of Alaska over a 40-year period beginning in the mid-1920s. The Jesse Lee Home was a refuge for housing, education and health care at a time when influenza and tuberculosis epidemics exacted a devastating toll on Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The Jesse Lee Home has many prominent Alaska Native alumni. Perhaps the most famous of these alumni is Benny Benson who was a resident of the Jesse Lee Home when he designed the Alaskan flag and won a statewide competition; and

WHEREAS: The Jesse Lee Home suffered extensive damage from the 1964 Earthquake and was abandoned. Since then, the property has suffered further neglect and deterioration. The building is at the point that if restoration does not occur soon it will be lost forever; and

WHEREAS: In 2001, the State Legislature passed a bill recognizing the Jesse Lee Home as a site of historic significance for all people of Alaska and directed the Department of Natural Resources to determine costs and procedures necessary for its preservation and restoration; and

WHEREAS: A group of citizens from across the State of Alaska, including Alaska Children's Services, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, CIRI, Chugach Alaska Corporation, the City of Seward, the Rasmuson Foundation and Alaska Community Foundation, a former resident of the facility and others have formed an organization with the aim of the preservation of the Jesse Lee Home.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN support ongoing efforts to preserve and restore the Jesse Lee Home, including efforts to apply for funding to restore the Home to be used as an educational facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Federation of Natives encourages continued participation by the State of Alaska in efforts to identify a viable and sustainable use for the Jesse Lee Home.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET REGION, INC., CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-26

TITLE: ENSURING WORKFORCE READINESS

WHEREAS: The state of Alaska is facing the possibility of several major construction projects, including the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Project; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Project alone will require an estimated 54 million construction man hours, including 1,650 welders/helpers, 2,000 operators, 135 surveyors, 1,250 laborers, 755 Teamsters, 418 inspectors, 90 UT Technicians and 170 salaried Foremen; and

WHEREAS: Many of Alaska's high demand occupations are in the resource extraction industries, especially major mining prospects located in rural areas of the state, with support activities in construction and transportation; and

WHEREAS: Construction has been one of the employment stars in Alaska's economy over the last decade and pays high wages compared to other key sectors in the economy and second only to oil and gas; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 78 percent of all jobs in Alaska do not require a Bachelor's degree or above; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 53 percent of Alaska's high school graduates do not pursue post-secondary education, and approximately 38 percent of young Alaskans leave Alaska for further education and jobs; and

WHEREAS: Vocational education and training must be expanded in Alaska in order to meet these emerging workforce development needs while simultaneously providing working wages for people and assisting Alaska Native people in achieving economic independence; and

WHEREAS: There are a number of barriers to Alaska Native workforce development, such as need for transportation and childcare, lack of work experience and job skills, difficulties in transitioning from village to urban work environments and low participation in Union Apprenticeships; and

WHEREAS: There is a need for strategic partnerships bringing together both the public and private sectors, such as the State of Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, the Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, industry associations, the AFL-CIO, and others.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN supports additional state funding for additional vocational training centers statewide, but particularly in urban centers affected by the unprecedented in-migration of Alaska Natives, while continuing to support those centers currently located in Barrow, Bethel, Delta Junction, Galena, King Salmon, Kotzebue, Nome, and Seward.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the efforts of the U.S. Department of Labor and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development to increase capacity to recruit and train Alaska Native workers in the high-growth industries, and to further the vision to put rural Alaskans to work, especially in construction trades and the energy industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Federation of Natives supports the efforts of federal and state programs to implement initiatives that further employment and training opportunities in particular for Alaska Native people by providing career guidance in Alaska schools and colleges.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET REGION, INC., COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



# **ECONOMIC**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-27

TITLE: ENERGY COSTS

WHEREAS: The cost of heating fuel has more than doubled during the past two years; and

WHEREAS: Freight charges have increased due to rising fuel costs; and

WHEREAS: The schools in rural villages are faced with increased energy cost where any increases to the budget are being consumed by the high cost of energy consumption; and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 36, Section 14.17.520, requires the district to budget for and spend a minimum of 70 percent of its school operating expenditures in each fiscal year on the instructional component of the district budget; and

WHEREAS: Village power utilities are being forced to increase their power utility charges to schools due to energy costs; and

WHEREAS: The state of Alaska had a 1.5 billion dollar revenue surplus; and

WHEREAS: The peak hours for power utilities are from 8:00a.m- 4:00p.m. when the schools are in session; and

WHEREAS: Power Cost Equalization (PCE) is a program under which the state of Alaska pays a portion of the electric bills for consumers served by utilities participating in the program; and

WHEREAS: The Power Cost Equalization amount is applicable to residential customer billings only.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urge the Alaska State Legislature to include rural school districts in the Power Cost Equalization Program, only with additional funds to ensure fiscal neutrality to the residential program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the  
Alaska State Legislature to increase funding or provide supplemental  
funding to K-12 schools to offset the increases in energy costs.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-28

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES' ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives is advocating a range of economic initiatives in Congress intended to create new economic opportunities in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska lags behind the rest of the United States economically, and badly needs to diversify its economy; and

WHEREAS: The package of economic initiatives proposed by AFN includes:

1. Making high speed telecommunications a national priority;
2. Conducting a feasibility study on creating an "Arctic Free Trade Zone" in Alaska;
3. Creating an Alaska Native "knowledge economy ecosystem" to support Native businesses, and to meet government needs regarding information and communications technology, and other sectors;
4. Designing Native demonstration projects on workforce development for the knowledge economy, tailored to our needs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that they support AFN's economic development legislative strategy as outlined above and urge Congress to enact the necessary implementing legislation and to fund the initiatives.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-29

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA MARKETPLACE INITIATIVE BY THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives has begun a new project, together with many partners, called the "Alaska Marketplace," which has successfully operated for one year and is entering its second year; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Marketplace is a competition for innovative business ideas by Alaska Natives which provides monetary awards to successful competitors, from private funding sources; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Marketplace supports Native culture and creates job opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The people of Bristol Bay have a long history of innovation and creativity and should be encouraged to submit applications and participate in the Alaska Marketplace.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that on behalf of its Native people and communities, we support the continuation of the Alaska Marketplace and applaud AFN and the partner organizations and companies that have contributed to the Alaska Marketplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. encourage people to participate in the Alaska Marketplace competition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention will help AFN publicize the Alaska Marketplace competition within the Alaska villages.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-30

TITLE: CALLING FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES AND THE STATE OF ALASKA AND ITS AGENCIES TO GIVE ATTENTION TO ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED VILLAGES AND ENABLE RURAL VILLAGES TO BECOME SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., is a state non-profit organization representing all Alaska Native communities, regional and village corporations; and

WHEREAS: Many rural villages continually have the highest rate of unemployment in Alaska and are considered economically depressed communities; and

WHEREAS: Rural communities lack an adequate tax base for basic government services and have endured reduced state revenue sharing and municipal assistance while at the same time experiencing a dramatic rise in fuel costs that have exacerbated their difficult financial position; and

WHEREAS: The high cost of basic necessities, such as food, fuel, and transportation, contributes to the stagnation of economic growth of rural communities; and

WHEREAS: The continuous need to develop economic opportunities, employment, and infrastructure of Alaska Native communities persistently exists; and

WHEREAS: The pursuit of wealth-building within rural villages will enable these communities to become stable, viable, and sustainable

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the federal government and its agencies and the State of Alaska and its agencies are urged to offer competitive grants for economic development projects to

any tribal or rural municipal government to provide adequate revolving loans, training, and day care assistance for new businesses and support all regional and local endeavors of economic development, diversification, and sustainability for Alaska Native villages so they can become stable and viable communities.

SUBMITTED BY: MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-31

TITLE: INSURING THAT ALASKA NATIVES WILL BENEFIT AND BE PROTECTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALASKA GASLINE

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska and the natural gas producers, ExxonMobil, BP and ConocoPhillips have been engaged in contractual negotiation to plan, build and operate an Alaska Gasline, and

WHEREAS: The next Governor for the State of Alaska will continue to negotiate with the producers or other independent parties to plan, build and operate an Alaska Gasline, and

WHEREAS: The next Governor for the State of Alaska must directly address how Alaska Natives will benefit and be protected in the development of an Alaska Gasline, and

WHEREAS: Once a contract is finalized, the public will have an opportunity to learn the contract details and pursuant to The Stranded Gas Act will have a minimum 30-day public comment period and thereafter, the Alaska State Legislature will be able to vote for or against making a gas pipeline project a reality, and

WHEREAS: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is an independent regulatory agency within the United States Department of Energy and had regulatory jurisdiction over what will be the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; and,

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives believes it is vital to set forth its own "Gasline Principles" addressing the proper development of the Alaska Gasline.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN fully supports an Alaska gas pipeline and respectfully requests the State of Alaska and the Alaska gas producers to officially adopt and embrace the "AFN Alaska Gasline Principles" as follows:

1. The State of Alaska and the Alaska gas producers shall guarantee that a substantial portion of the economic opportunities created by the Alaska Gasline (including employment and contracting opportunities) will benefit Alaska Natives and include a provision that all Native organizations have a right of first refusal to acquire at a minimum 20 percent ownership in the gas pipeline.

2. The State of Alaska and the Alaska gas producers shall fund vocational training for Alaska Natives so that they may be employed at a minimum of 20 percent in the construction, operation and maintenance of the Alaska Gasline.
3. The State of Alaska and the Alaska gas producers shall establish a development plan, which minimizes the impacts to the Alaska Native communities along the proposed gasline route.
4. The State of Alaska and the Alaska gas producers shall guarantee a continuing community development fund for communities which are impacted by the development of the Alaska Gasline, including employment and contracting opportunities.
5. The State of Alaska and the Alaska gas producers shall assure that the development plan and operating plan minimizes the impacts on Alaska Native subsistence activities and on lands traditionally used for subsistence purposes.
6. Rural communities shall have an opportunity to access the gas from the North Slope; and all Alaska will benefit with the low cost of developing its natural resources and by value-added production of its renewable resources.
7. AFN shall seek the support of FERC to incorporate these AFN Gasline Principles into the planning, building and operation of the Alaska Gasline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in no way shall the AFN gas pipeline principles interfere with the rights of individual tribes or tribal organizations to negotiate with FERC or the Producers in the development of an Alaska Natural gas pipeline.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET REGION, INC.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-32

TITLE: CALLING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

WHEREAS: Due to the remote nature of rural Alaskan communities and the corresponding high costs of providing services to these communities, telecommunications infrastructure has lagged behind that of urban areas of the state and woefully behind the telecommunications infrastructure of the lower 48; and

WHEREAS: In the last few years, many rural communities have had Wireless service made available to them, but the price is double that of Anchorage, and there is a large investment to be made in hardware to access it. The service is less than 60% reliable and there is no technical support to repair any individual user connectivity issues. Telecommunications companies that provide this service do not make consumers aware of Federal Programs to help pay for hardware installation, as they are required to do by Federal regulation; and

WHEREAS: Most telephone and Internet service in rural communities comes over satellite rather than terrestrial copper, fiber optic or microwave lines. This service is very costly and is only economically feasible for rural residents through federal telecommunications subsidies; and

WHEREAS: The Telecommunications Act of 1996 calls for universal service subsidies for the provision of health care, schools and libraries and also calls for “access to advanced telecommunications and information services” for “all regions of the nation.” (Section 254(b)(2) and “access in rural and high cost areas” which includes “. . . interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services that reasonably compare to those services provided in urban areas and that are available at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas; and

WHEREAS: Costs in urban and rural Alaska are far from comparable. In Anchorage, an unsubsidized T-1 line costs \$824.55 a month, in the Bering Straits Region of Alaska, the same service costs \$12,256 a month;

WHEREAS: Regional non-profits that do not provide health care, but do provide Head Start, Higher Education Scholarships, Adult Basic Education, Counseling Services, Children and Family Social Services, General Assistance, Employment and Training, Economic Development, Natural Resource Research and Advocacy, Village Planning Assistance and Village Public

Safety Officer services, among other services, are not eligible to receive subsidies through the Universal Services Fund; and

WHEREAS: The line of the digital divide has been drawn more strongly now in areas with the greatest need of access to the services of the Internet. The high cost of implementation in these rural remote communities has prevented competition between ISP's and has in fact caused some ISPs to cease operation. Federal Funds that have been made available to the State of Alaska, for the building of new infrastructure is made available only to existing telecommunication companies, and is not used to allow Native communities to compete with Anchorage based corporations. Such funds are only available to communities that are not currently being served, regardless of the cost of the service or the quality; and

WHEREAS: As long as a state of non-competition is allowed to exist in rural Alaska, rural connectivity costs and subsidy expenses that support the health systems, schools and libraries access to the internet will remain high; and

WHEREAS: In a study done by the General Accountability Office dated January 2006 Titled: Challenges to Assessing and Improving Telecommunications for Native Americans on Tribal Land the GAO states, "The status of Internet subscribership on tribal lands is unknown because no one collects this data at the tribal level. Without current subscribership data, it is difficult to assess progress or the impact of federal programs to improve telecommunications on tribal lands"; and

WHEREAS: In reality, even though progress has been made in making Internet Access available to rural areas of Alaska, services in these areas are much more expensive and of lower quality than urban counterparts; and

WHEREAS: Again quoting the GAO report "The Rural Utilities Service and the FCC have several general programs to improve telecommunications in rural areas and make service affordable for low-income groups, which would include tribal lands. In addition, FCC created some programs targeted to tribal lands...However, (the) FCC's universal service fund programs that supports telecommunications services... has legislatively based eligibility rules that preclude tribal libraries in at least two states from being eligible for this funding. FCC officials told GAO that it is unable to modify these eligibility rules because they are contained in statute and thus modifications would require legislative action by Congress."; and

WHEREAS: The same legislative eligibility rules prohibit tribes, and providers of tribal education and social services from receiving these federal subsidies. The report goes on to say; "The barriers to improving telecommunications on tribal lands most often cited by tribal officials, service providers, and others GAO spoke with were the rural, rugged terrain of tribal lands and tribes' limited financial resources. These barriers increase the costs of deploying infrastructure and limit the ability of service providers to recover their costs, which can reduce providers' interest in investing in

providing or improving service; and

WHEREAS: Other barriers include the shortage of technically trained tribal members. The GAO found that to address the barriers of rural, rugged terrain and limited financial resources that can reduce providers' interest in investing on tribal lands, several tribes are moving toward owning or developing their own telecommunications systems, using federal grants, loans, or other assistance, and private-sector partnerships. Many programs offered by the Federal government are for unserved areas, and no money is made available to those tribal areas that are served by some sort of Internet access, no matter how expensive or what the quality of service is; and

WHEREAS: The GAO recommends that Congress should consider amending the Telecommunications Act to facilitate and clarify the eligibility for universal service funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the Commerce Committee of the United States Senate to enact changes to the Telecommunications act to widen the definition of eligibility for Universal Service Funds to include Tribal Social Services and Tribal Educational service providers in areas of the nation without terrestrial land lines, as both are important to the health and well being of rural Alaskans and tribal members;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives recommends that our Alaska Congressional Delegation, Commerce Committee of the United States Senate and Congress as a whole enact legislation to modify the Telecommunications Act to allow Native communities and consortiums to access Federal funding hereto only afforded private corporations, to stimulate competition among providers to bring low cost Internet and other telecommunications services to underserved regions.

SUBMITTED BY: ON BEHALF OF THE HRC COMMITTEE BY  
KAWERAK, INC

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-33

TITLE: SUPPORTING USPS POSTAL UNIT CONTRACTS IN ALL VILLAGES IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: The United States Postal Service (USPS) is a vital service in all villages of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The USPS cites an increase of 100 percent in the number of Contract Postal Units in its 2005 annual report; and

WHEREAS: Most postal units in the villages of Alaska are Contract units; and

WHEREAS: Without these postal unit contracts the USPS would necessarily have to build postal facilities in all village locations in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The USPS is saving operational and capital expenses by using postal unit contracts; and

WHEREAS: The USPS is restricted from reviewing contracts for purposes of profit by the unit operator; and

WHEREAS: Postal unit contractors do not receive annual increases for operational costs and compared to the rest of the world village prices are in excess of twenty five percent in most locations in Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN respectfully requests the United States Postal Service to review its cost of living, inflation and postal unit contract operational costs to ensure fair pricing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urge the United States Postal Service, in compliance with statute and regulations, to ask the United States Congress for such increases as are needed to provide an equitable service in any village in Alaska as it would expect to provide in any location in the U.S.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the United States Postal Service is asked to  
acknowledge USPS Contract operators for the service provided in all of  
rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-34

- TITLE: CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND
- WHEREAS: Alaska possesses vast amounts of renewable energy resources in the form of wind, geothermal, biomass, solar, tidal, wave and hydro power; and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Legislature established the Alaska Energy Policy Task force in 2003 to review and analyze the state's current and long term energy needs; and
- WHEREAS: The Task Force found that one of Alaska's long term energy needs is to "identify and evaluate long term fuel resources" and recommends that the state "increase the proportion of renewable energy in long term fuel sources"; and
- WHEREAS: There is virtually no fuel costs associated with renewable energy resources; and
- WHEREAS: Renewable energy technology development promotes both industry and job creation; and
- WHEREAS: The Institute of Social and Economic Research's December 2005 research summary states "Diesel is the main energy source in remote communities--and in 2004 diesel outside the rail belt cost about 5 times as much per unit of energy as natural gas;"and
- WHEREAS: Community facilities such as electrical plants, water & sewer services and health clinics use diesel fuel; and
- WHEREAS: Rural Alaskan residents are dependent on diesel fuel to generate heat for homes and the high cost of energy seriously impacts economic conditions in rural Alaska. The average price of diesel fuel in the Bering Straits Region is \$4.39 a gallon; and
- WHEREAS: There are numerous agencies dealing with energy assistance, both federal state and international specialists. We urge the State to appoint a cabinet level position to coordinate and centralize resources to provide leadership and begin to develop a solution to the long term energy crisis; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that President Bush is urged to include in his budget for FY 2008, more funding for alternative fuel projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Congressional Delegation and the State Administration is urged to address the energy needs of rural Alaska families by:

1. Creating a Renewable Energy Fund to finance new utility scale renewable energy projects in Alaska funded by general appropriations. The fund shall be distinct from funds administered by Alaska Energy Authority and will conduct programs of energy research, development, demonstration and application; and
2. Creating a cabinet level position to coordinate efforts and centralize state and federal resources to solve the long term energy crisis; and
3. Creating a revolving loan fund to allow individuals and businesses to purchase and install alternative energy products.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.; NAPAKIAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



## **ANCSA/TRIBAL**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-35

- TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALASKA INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL
- WHEREAS: The indigenous peoples of Alaska are the first inhabitants of this land currently encompassed within the state of Alaska and are divided into 231 federally recognized tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS: The 231 federally recognized tribes are the political representatives of Alaska Natives peoples and still in existence and exercise their government-to-government relationship with the federal government; and
- WHEREAS: In 1971, the U.S. federal government, in its own interest to develop oil and gas deposits, sought a political settlement of aboriginal land title with Alaska's indigenous peoples; and
- WHEREAS: This settlement would be called the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971; and
- WHEREAS: ANCSA manufactured beneficiaries of this act rather than the federally recognized tribal governments who represent indigenous Alaska Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS: This new class of indigenous Alaska Native peoples are shareholders and benefactors of the settlement; the new organizations are Native for-profit corporations; and
- WHEREAS: The newly created benefactors meet annually to discuss and present ideas to the benefit of the new benefactors, who are also members of the federally recognized tribes; this meeting is called the annual meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives; and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Inter-Tribal Council is a statewide consortium of Alaska Native tribal governments that advocates for, protects, defends, and enhances tribal government sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS: The responsibility to ensure the existence, continuance, and promotion of indigenous Alaska Native cultures, communities and societies resides in the tribal government.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc, that we recommend the Alaska Federation of Natives begin to and continually work in fully collaboration with the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council for the benefit of all Alaska Native tribal governments, communities and peoples to address cultural, social, economical, and political issues that affect the indigenous peoples of Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-36

- TITLE: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR AMENDING THE ALASKA NATIVE ALLOTMENT ACT AND THE ALASKA NATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS ALLOTMENT ACT FOR VETERANS, SPOUSES AND FAMILY MEMBERS
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives supports the rights of Alaska Tribal citizens to receive title to land under the 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act and the 1998 Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act; and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Veterans Association, a non-profit organization representing Alaska Native veterans group together with a working group consisting of 150 federally recognized Tribal governments and nonprofit organizations in Alaska, including Sitka Tribe, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Chilkat Indian Village, Ketchikan Indian Community, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes, Inupiat Community of the Arctic North Slope, Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Realty Consortium, Maniilaq Association, Bristol Bay Native Association, Kawerak, Inc., and Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, and Alaska Legal Services Corporation, have drafted technical amendments to allow more Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to receive allotments and to reopen allotment cases rejected and closed under the decision in *Shields v. United States*, 698 F.2d 987 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1983); and
- WHEREAS: The amendments to the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act are necessary because this law contains so many restrictions that very few veterans are eligible and under the current Act very little land in Alaska is available to veterans; and
- WHEREAS: The amendments to reopen the allotments closed under the decision in *Shields* is necessary to correct the unfair distribution of allotments in Southeast Alaska that resulted because of the rule that applicants must personally use the allotment land when most of the land in southeast Alaska was withdrawn by 1909 for the Tongass National Forest which encompasses almost 17 million acres; and
- WHEREAS: The amendments to the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act were introduced in 2005 into the U.S. House of Representatives as H.R. 1811 and into the U.S. Senate as S. 2000 but no committee hearings or any other actions have been taken.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., (AFN) request the Alaska Congressional Delegation to support amending the Alaska Native Allotment Act and the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act in order to allow more allotments for Native Vietnam veterans and to reopen the *Shields* allotments in southeast Alaska and to take actions that would move H.R. 1811 and S. 2000 (or similar types of legislation) forward to a vote.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-37

**TITLE:** REQUEST FOR STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO INCLUDE ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES & ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH USDA REGULATIONS

**WHEREAS:** Pursuant to USDA regulations, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist for Alaska is required by regulation to invite each Federally Recognized Tribe and each Alaska Native Corporation owning 100,000 acres to attend and to participate as voting members of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Agency (NRCS) State Technical Committee; and

**WHEREAS:** With a 2006 national budget of \$3 billion, NRCS is the primary federal agency that provides programs and funding to the nations communities, tribes and private landowners to help conserve, protect and enhance the nation's natural resources, including wildlife and subsistence resources; and

**WHEREAS:** USDA regulations require NRCS State Technical Committees in every state, to meet on a regular basis to provide information, analysis and recommendations in writing to USDA, regarding NRCS policies, programs and practices; and

**WHEREAS:** The NRCS State Technical Committee is Alaska's only statewide forum opportunity for Alaskans to review and provide recommendations on improving USDA NRCS policies intended to provide all landowners, including Alaska Natives, with equitable access to NRCS outreach, technical assistance, and program funding; and

**WHEREAS:** Prior to October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006, no State Technical Committee meetings had ever been held in Alaska that met the requirement that each of Alaska's Federally Recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations owning 100,000 acres be invited to participate as voting members along with the Non-Native committee members that USDA NRCS now serves; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native landowners and Communities, who for more than 2 decades have had little or no access to USDA NRCS programs, now face severely depleted subsistence habitats, and are today in great need of NRCS programs to restore wildlife habitats and natural subsistence resources to sustain local economies, communities, or families; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes and Native Corporations seek to positively contribute to and receive the benefits of restoring Alaska's depleted wildlife habitats and natural resources, through equitable access to the

NRCS outreach, technical assistance and programs that were so successful in restoring wildlife populations throughout the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives to hereby request and strongly urge the US Department of Agriculture Secretary Michael Johanns to commit to tangibly acknowledge and affirm to Alaska Natives that USDA NRCS shall immediately and henceforth hold regularly scheduled State Technical Committee meetings in Alaska with Alaska Native Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, as required by USDA regulations and shall fully comply with USDA's trust obligations to provide for subsistence as "essential to Native physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence" as required in federal laws such as ANILCA, and in keeping USDA's interagency trust commitment to US Dept. of Interior to meet the agricultural (natural subsistence resource) needs of Alaska Natives as Tribes, Native Corporations, and Native Allotment Owners.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives to hereby request and urge the Secretary to require that the USDA NRCS State Conservationist for Alaska, immediately call for, publish and schedule regular quarterly State Technical Committee meetings that fully comply with the intent and spirit of USDA regulations 610.21, 610.22(14), and 610.23, to provide written notice and outreach to each Federally Recognized Tribe and Alaska Native Corporation, including published notices of said meetings in native owned newspapers across the state, as required by regulation.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby request and urge the Secretary to provide to Congress and the Alaska Federation of Natives, an annual report documenting the advancements of USDA NRCS outreach, technical assistance, and programs in correcting 25 years in which Alaska Natives received little or no access to NRCS programs.

SUBMITTED BY: TYONEK NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-38

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO MAKE TARGETED INCREASES FOR TRIBAL PRIORITY ALLOCATIONS WITHIN THE BIA BUDGET, AND THAT THE BIA AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE TRIBAL MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

**WHEREAS:** Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) funds are used in Alaska to provide a broad range of services including Real Estate, Probate, Forestry and related services to Native allotment holders; Higher Education Scholarships; Adult Vocational Training; Adult Basic Education; Tribal Operations; Housing Improvement (HIP); Economic Development; Indian Child Welfare services; general Social Services; Welfare Assistance including general assistance, emergency assistance, and burial services; ANILCA-Subsistence services; and BIA Road Maintenance, among others; and

**WHEREAS:** the vast majority of this funding is administered by Tribes and Tribal Organizations via PL 93-638 self-determination contracts and compacts; and

**WHEREAS:** much of this TPA funding is restricted for particular uses by the federal government including all Trust-related services, Welfare Assistance, HIP and Road Maintenance; and

**WHEREAS:** since 2000 there have been increases in Trust-related services within the BIA budget, but these increases have all been in restricted budget lines; and

**WHEREAS:** while Tribal Contractors are able to allocate some TPA funding to priority needs, and design new programs to meet needs that don't fit within any particular BIA funding category, the portion of TPA that is realistically subject to reallocation and redesign has significantly decreased since 2000 due to restrictions imposed by the federal government because of the Cobell litigation, BIA restructuring, the PART and GPRA processes, and other factors; and

**WHEREAS:** Tribal Priority Allocation funding has been hugely under-funded for years, between 1998 and 2003, national TPA spending power decreased by \$36.5 million or 4.4 percent;

**WHEREAS:** in Alaska, the decrease is even more dramatic; one regional non-profit

Tribal compacting organization has calculated it absorbed a 19% cut in TPA funding since FY 2000 once one-time budget allocations and earmarked funds are factored out, while experiencing a 17.27% increase in inflation (Anchorage CPI); and

- WHEREAS: Alaska's Native population, per the 2000 census is estimated to be 119,241 individuals (or 19% of the State population) and growing, of which 44% are 19 years of age or younger; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska's PL 93-638 Tribal contractors are the primary service delivery system for Alaska Native and rural peoples - and the demand continues to grow for scholarships, adult vocational training, housing, social services, employment and training and other services; and
- WHEREAS: While tremendous gains have been achieved over the past twenty years, Alaska Natives and American Indians still have a long way to go as measured by health, social and economic indicators;
- WHEREAS: While we recognize the need to balance the federal budget and that cuts in discretionary spending may be warranted, we do not believe the cuts should come from key areas of the BIA budget, such as TPA and initiatives that support education and economic development in rural isolated economically depressed communities; and
- WHEREAS: TPA funding has not kept up with the rate of inflation, during a time of escalating insurance, personnel, fuel, transportation, and building costs, the net result being that we have fewer dollars to meet the ever growing needs of Alaska's Native population; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Tribal Contractors do not have access to tribal gaming revenue to subsidize the cost of providing services in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: In 1994, the BIA Budget Task Force recommended that Small and Needy Tribes throughout the nation receive base budgets of \$160,000 and for Alaska, in recognition of the higher cost of doing business, the Task Force recommended that Small and Needy tribes receive base funding of \$200,000; and
- WHEREAS: Congress allocated funds in 1998 and 1999 to bring all Small and Needy Tribes to a base of \$160,000, but the recommendation to increase Small and Needy Tribe funding in Alaska to \$200,000 has never been implemented; and
- WHEREAS: Sky-rocketing fuel prices in particular are creating an economic and public health and safety crisis in rural Alaska, yet there is no TPA-funded program designed to address energy costs; and
- WHEREAS: Even "unrestricted" TPA funds are subject to the normal allowable-cost constraints imposed by OMB Circulars, including the prohibitions against

making loans or donations with federal funds, such that it is difficult for Tribal Contractors to design effective programs to address energy costs with TPA funding; and

WHEREAS: Concerns have been raised based on anecdotal reports from some villages, about the prioritization and use of existing TPA funds at the village level; and

WHEREAS: The decline in TPA funding has resulted in less attention being given to basic governance training in areas such as fiscal management, council ethics, and similar matters since training and technical assistance are among the first services cut when budgets are reduced.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention that AFN call upon Congress to appropriate significantly more TPA funding to keep all TPA funding current with inflation, or alternatively that a specific line be built into the BIA TPA budget for Alaska to offset our high cost of doing business;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon Congress to appropriate a targeted increase to TPA funding, perhaps the equivalent amount needed to increase the Small and Needy Tribes base to \$200,000, to address core village needs such as energy costs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Bureau of Indian Affairs to design its Service Providers Conference and similar conferences to include a tribal management track, to address basic issues of tribal government processes, ethics, financial administration, and similar matters;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon AFN management, the regional non-profits, and tribal entities to create a task force to create a template and a training curriculum for tribes regarding the prioritization and use of government funds, which can be widely disseminated in rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: THE AFN HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



**OTHER**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-39

- TITLE: OPPOSING SB 1845: A BILL TO DIVIDE THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT
- WHEREAS: The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is the federal appellate court that covers the states of Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, Montana, and Alaska, and
- WHEREAS: As the largest Court of Appeals in the United States, the Ninth Circuit has over the years developed remarkable systems for expediting cases, including the country's leading appellate mediation program, and is among the fastest appellate courts in resolving appeals from agency decisions; and
- WHEREAS: The judges on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals are roughly evenly divided between judges appointed by Republican Presidents and judges appointed by Democratic Presidents; and
- WHEREAS: Despite the Circuit's balance and efficiency, a proposal is once again pending in Congress to divide the Ninth Circuit into two parts, with California placed into a new Twelfth Circuit Court of Appeals and all other states placed in the new Ninth Circuit (SB 1845); and
- WHEREAS: The Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, the vast majority of Ninth Circuit judges and federal trial judges, and the state bar associations, as well as numerous other interest groups, have opposed SB 1845 and other proposals to split the Ninth Circuit; and
- WHEREAS: Of the more than 500 federally recognized Tribes in the United States, 411 Tribes are situated within the current geographic boundaries of the Ninth Circuit; and
- WHEREAS: Some Tribes have reservations, lands or hunting and fishing rights that straddle the border between California and the state of Arizona, Nevada and Oregon, and
- WHEREAS: The majority of the Nations remaining Tribes lie within the geographic boundaries of the Tenth Circuit and the Eight Circuit, so that today the overwhelming majority of Indian Tribes are governed by the law that is developed by these Circuits, but particularly by the Ninth Circuit; and
- WHEREAS: The breakdown in uniformity caused by a split of the Ninth Circuit will necessarily create new inter-circuit conflicts among what will then be four Circuits containing most of the Nations Indian Tribes (instead of three)

and the increased inter-circuit conflict caused by the split will be destabilizing both for Tribes and for state and local governments which depend upon a reasonably well-settled body of federal Indian law in their dealings with Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS: Such destabilizing developments in the field of Federal Indian Law will only worsen over time, causing further legal uncertainties for Indian Tribes and those that deal with Tribes; and

WHEREAS: The division of the Ninth Circuit into two parts would isolate over 100 Tribes within California into their own Circuit, while leaving some Tribes subject to potentially conflicting rulings from two circuits facts which over time will lead to the development of two different bodies of law for the Tribes located within each of the two new Circuits, undermining the uniformity that currently prevails in the law applicable across the whole Circuit.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN strongly urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to reject SB 1845.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



## **SUSPENSION OF RULES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-40

TITLE: SUPPORTING ICWA COMPLIANCE IN CHILD IN NEED OF AID PROTECTIVE PLACEMENTS THROUGH AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH TRIBAL STAKEHOLDERS AND THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO ACCOMPLISH RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF LICENSED ALASKA NATIVE FOSTER HOMES

WHEREAS: ICWA regulates and sets minimum standards for States regarding the handling of child abuse, child neglect, and adoption cases involving Native children, as well as affirms and supports Tribal Jurisdiction in child welfare proceedings; and

WHEREAS: the spirit of ICWA mandates that Native children have a right to have and to protect Tribal identities and entitlements. More importantly, Native children have a right to NOT have their family broken apart; and if no other immediate and reasonable solution can be found, children have the right to be placed with a Native family or an "Indian Custodian" who is recognized as having the same rights as a parent in legal proceedings; and

WHEREAS: statewide, the 62% of Alaska Native children in placed in legal or physical custody of the State is greatly disproportionate to the corresponding percentage of Alaska Native children in the general population (19%); and

WHEREAS: at any given time, more than half of the State's 229 Federally Recognized Tribes have children involved in the Anchorage Regional Office of Children's Services; and

WHEREAS: in Anchorage, approximately 70% percent of the Alaska Native children in foster care are NOT living in a Native-preference placement; and

WHEREAS: less than 25 State-licensed Native foster homes exist in the Anchorage area who are capable of providing a placement to any Native child and who are compensated by the State for this care;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT AFN support and assist in developing strategic partnerships to increase the number of recognized Native foster families or "Indian Custodians" through active recruitment and retention efforts for those children who are in state custody, and to pay foster families for the care foster children in tribal custody:

1. Expand community awareness of the need for Native foster families through all forms of media including television, radio, and internet.

2. Recognize cultural and community-specific child-rearing methods in recruitment efforts.
3. Network with Native resources through mailings or participation in village councils, local Native ANCSA meetings, and Gathering places in recruitment efforts.
4. Utilize community resources such as schools, churches, medical providers, current Native foster parents, and relatives in recruitment effort.
5. Develop foster parent support services to improve retention of Native foster parents such as a coordinated respite care exchange, a crisis help-line, an information clearinghouse, foster family gatherings, mentor families or natural helpers, and counseling or consultation services.
6. Establish avenues to lobby for change in the state legislation to recognize and to financially compensate Tribally-licensed Foster Homes.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC.

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-41

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA BOARD OF GAME TO DEFER REVIEW OF CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL FINDINGS UNDER TIER II UNTIL MARCH 2007

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives supports the continued protection of subsistence user rights; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives believes that affected subsistence users should have the opportunity to testify on matters related to their subsistence use and rights; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Board of Game will receive customary and traditional use findings for Tier II at its meeting in November to be held in Wrangell, Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The people of the Ahtna region have a long history of customary and traditional use in units 11, 12, 13 and 20; and

WHEREAS: The Ahtna people that will be the most directly affected by the actions of the board of game regarding C & T findings and Tier II will not have the opportunity to attend and testify in Wrangell; and

WHEREAS: The Ahtna people are requesting the board of game review the existing customary and traditional use study previously done by the Copper River Native Association before any actions by the board of game are taken that will affect Tier II; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives believes the board of game is by addressing C & T findings for Tier II outside of the region in which game management units 11, 12, 13 & 20 apply are effectively denying the Ahtna people the opportunity to attend and testify; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives strongly believes the Ahtna people should be allowed the opportunity to protect their subsistence rights by testifying in person; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that on behalf of the Ahtna people and all Tier II users the Board of Game defer any discussion or action regarding customary and traditional use findings under Tier II until its March 2007 meetings to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA INCORPORATED

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-42

TITLE: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES STRONGLY URGES THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION AND THE ALASKA DENTAL SOCIETY TO DROP THEIR LAWSUIT AGAINST THE ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM AND DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPISTS.

WHEREAS: The Alaska Tribal Health System (ATHS), under tribal self-determination, pursued a solution to poor oral health conditions in our communities; and

WHEREAS ATHS began a Dental Health Aide Therapist Initiative to increase the number of dental providers in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Dental Health Aide Therapists undergo two years training to provide mid-level dentistry services. They then must meet federally approved standards to receive certification from the Federal Community Health Aide Practitioner/Program (CHAP) Certification Board; and

WHEREAS: Dental Health Aide Therapists are providing valuable mid-level dentistry in our communities under the general supervision of dentists; and

WHEREAS: The American Dental Association and the Alaska Dental Society (ADA and ADS) have filed suit against the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Dental Health Aide Therapists to stop the mid-level dentistry practice; and

WHEREAS: The ADA/ADS lawsuit has impeded the progress of the Alaska Tribal Health Systems' efforts to provide badly needed dental health care in our communities and by our tribal members; and

WHEREAS: The ADA/ADS lawsuit has placed a great financial burden on ANTHC and the Alaska Tribal Health System.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that it strongly urges that the American Dental Association and the Alaska Dental Society to drop their lawsuit against ANTHC and the Dental Health Aide Therapists.

SUBMITTED BY: THE ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-43

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION AND INCREASED FUNDING FOR NATIVE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

WHEREAS: In Native communities across the country, Native languages are in rapid decline and it is estimated that only twenty indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050; and

WHEREAS: The key to stemming the loss of Native American languages is by significantly increasing support for Native American language immersion programs and programs designed to build towards language immersion. It is well proven that language immersion programs are one of the few effective ways to create fluent speakers in Native languages; and

WHEREAS: Data shows that Native students who go through an immersion program perform substantially better academically than Native students who have not gone through such a program; and

WHEREAS: Enacted in 1990, the Native American Languages Act (NALA) reversed the federal government's previous policy of eliminating Native American languages and instead, established a federal policy to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedoms of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages; and

WHEREAS: In 1992, the Congress amended the Native American Programs Act to create a Native American languages grant program within the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS: The only federal agency that provides grants for Native American language immersion programs is ANA and funding through ANA has typically been less than \$400,000.00 a year to support language immersion programs; and

WHEREAS: H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Act of 2006 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on suspension with broad bi-partisan support on September 27, 2006; and

WHEREAS: H.R. 4766 has received broad bi-partisan support in the U.S. Senate and has been placed on the unanimous consent calendar in the Senate; and

WHEREAS: The National Indian Education Association, the National Congress of American Indians, the Native Hawaiian Education Association, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the United South and Eastern Tribes, the National Indian Head Start Directors Association, and dozens of tribes and regional tribal organizations have weighed in with strong support for H.R. 4766.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates to the 2006 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention do hereby express their support for H.R. 4766 as passed by the House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Senate to pass H.R. 4766 as passed by the House of Representatives when Congress reconvenes in November, 2006.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-44

TITLE: TO INCREASE PREVENTION AND RAPID RESPONSE CAPACITY TO VESSEL SPILLS IN ALASKA'S WATERS

WHEREAS: Alaska's waters, including the off-shore and Exclusive Economic Zone, are among the most productive areas of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's waters are essential for subsistence, economies, fisheries and transportation throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS: There is insufficient capacity and resources to respond to current cruise ship, petroleum, shipping, fishing, and tanker traffic in many of Alaska's most sensitive and essential waters; and

WHEREAS: There currently is significant vessel traffic throughout Alaska's waters including, for example, the following:  
Bulk Fuel Deliveries to River Villages;  
Cruise ships throughout Southeast;  
Cargo traffic on the Great Circle route;  
Tanker and fishing traffic in the Bering Straits and Sea;  
Increasing traffic in the Arctic Ocean, Beaufort and Chukchi Seas;  
And many other types of traffic throughout Alaska's waters; and

WHEREAS: The social, economic and ecological costs of spills negatively impact Alaska's and the United States resources, from which recovery can take decades and longer; and

WHEREAS: The recently re-funded Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund can assist in developing essential prevention and response measures.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN request Alaska's congressional delegation to support the use of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and other appropriate funding sources to increase prevention and rapid response capacity to vessel spills in Alaska's waters.

SUBMITTED BY: ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED

