

2010 ANNUAL CONVENTION

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

OCTOBER 23, 2010



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

1577 C Street, Suite 300

Anchorage, Alaska

Telephone: 907.274.3611

Fax: 907.276.7989

WWW.NATIVEFEDERATION.ORG

**2010 AFN CONVENTION
DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

NUMBER	TITLE	CONVENTION ACTION
	SPECIAL RECOGNITION	
10-01	RECOGNITION OF FLORE LEKANOF, SR	PASSED
	BOARD RESOLUTIONS	
10-02	RESOLUTION ENDORSING LISA MURKOWSKI AS CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR	PASSED
10-03	A CALL TO ACTION TO CONGRESS AND THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES TO FULLY PROTECT AND ENHANCE SUBSISTENCE HUNTING, FISHING, AND GATHERING FOR ALASKA NATIVES	AMENDED AND PASSED
10-04	VILLAGE SURVIVAL: HIGH COST OF HEATING FUEL	PASSED
10-05	ASKING PRESIDENT OBAMA TO REQUEST FULL FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS FOR 2012 AND BEYOND	PASSED
10-06	REQUEST FULL FUNDING OF THE "ALASKA ENERGY PATHWAYS" PROJECTS	PASSED
10-07	ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL NATIVE VETERAN LIAISON POSITIONS	PASSED
10-08	A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA SECURE PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO/FROM DIOMEDE, AK AND OTHER SIMILARLY SITUATED COMMUNITIES	PASSED
10-09	A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATHS OF HOMELESS ALASKANS IN ANCHORAGE AND OTHER HUBS	PASSED
10-10	A RESOLUTION ENDORSING RETENTION OF ALASKA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DANA FABE	PASSED
	SUBSISTENCE	
10-11	THE PROTECTION AND CONTINUATION OF CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL PRACTICES FOR MARINE MAMMAL SUBSISTENCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS	REFER TO AFN SUBSISTENCE COMMITTEE
10-12	A RESOLUTION REQUESTING U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO CONSULT MEANINGFULLY WITH WALRUS HUNTING COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED BY ESKIMO WALRUS COMMISSION ON PACIFIC WALRUS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT DETERMINATION	PASSED

10-13	CALLING FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS REGARDING THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES (USFWS) ON-GOING FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT PREDATOR MANAGEMENT FOR ADEQUATE SUBSISTENCE HARVEST NEEDS IN RURAL ALASKA	PASSED
10-14	REQUESTING TRIBAL CONSULTATION BEFORE THE ISSUANCE OF OPERATING PERMITS FOR SPORT/RECREATIONAL HUNTER TRANSPORTERS IN GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES	PASSED
	HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE	
10-15	SUPPORTING REGIONAL WELLNESS INITIATIVES	PASSED
10-16	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR STATE RECOGNIZED TRIBAL DEATH CERTIFICATES AND REGIONALLY-BASED MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICES	AMENDED AND PASSED
10-17	A RESOLUTION REGARDING NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA) FUNDING	PASSED
10-18	A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT OF 2010, S.3740	AMENDED AND PASSED
10-19	APPROPRIATION OF MORE FUNDS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS BY STATE OF ALASKA AND CONGRESS	PASSED
10-20	A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE REPRESENTATION OF ALASKA NATIVES IN THE COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) PROGRAM	PASSED
10-21	A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION	PASSED
10-22	URGING THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY AND THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) TO INCREASE SERVICE TO RURAL ALASKA AIR HUB COMMUNITIES	AMENDED AND PASSED
10-23	A RESOLUTION URGING LOCAL AIRLINES TO BE LENIENT IN ACCOMODATING PEOPLE WITH FAMILY EMERGENCIES	PASSED
10-24	SEEKING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION	AMENDED AND PASSED

	CULTURAL	
10-25	IN OPPOSITION TO THE DEFINITION OF SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED NATIVE HANDICRAFTS AS PORTRAYED IN A POSTER DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE	PASSED
	LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES	
10-26	SEEKING LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THE STATE OF ALASKA'S IMPOSITION OF CRITICAL HABITAT AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS ON ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION, NATIVE VILLAGE, AND ALASKA NATIVE ALLOTMENT PRIVATE PROPERTY	PASSED
	EDUCATION	
10-27	ALASKA TRIBES, REGIONAL CORPORATIONS, VILLAGE CORPORATIONS, MUNICIPALITIES, BOROUGHS AND TRIBAL COLLEGES PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA AND ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY	AMENDED AND PASSED
10-28	ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE	AMENDED AND PASSED
10-29	A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND THE ALASKA NATIVE SERVICES PROVIDED FOR STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL THROUGH ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAMS	AMENDED AND PASSED
10-30	SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO RESTORE BIA EDUCATION FUNDING TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS	AMENDED AND PASSED
	ECONOMIC	
10-31	TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OF RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES	AMENDED AND PASSED
10-32	REAUTHORIZATION OF THE DENALI COMMISSION	AMENDED AND PASSED
	OTHER	
10-33	A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BALLOT PROPOSITION 1, EXPANSION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE	PASSED
10-34	ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE COMMISSION BY THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES	AMENDED AND PASSED

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-01

TITLE: RECOGNITION OF FLORE LEKANOF, SR

WHEREAS: Flore Lekanof, Sr. was born August 18, 1926 on St. George Island, Alaska, and, in June, 1942 after the Japanese attacked the Aleutian Islands, he and his family were removed from St. George Island by the U.S. Government and forced into encampments in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS: After contracting tuberculosis and spending 3 ½ years in the hospital in Tacoma, Washington, Flore went on to attend and graduate from Lincoln High School in Tacoma, earn a bachelor's degree with a major in Philosophy from Whitworth College, and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Washington, and was one of the first Alaska Natives to earn university degrees; and

WHEREAS: Flore taught school in BIA and Public schools across Alaska, including in Chignik, Chignik Lake, Koyuk, St. George, St. Paul, Kotzebue, Point Hope, Barrow, Anchorage and Fairbanks, and became the principal of Scenic Park Elementary in Anchorage in 1975, the first Alaska Native to be appointed as a school principal; and

WHEREAS: Flore became one of the leaders in the fight to settle Alaska Native aboriginal land claims, organizing the Cook Inlet Native Association and serving as its first Charter President; and

WHEREAS: Flore was a charter member of the Alaska Federation of Natives and was elected its first chairman in 1966. He also organized and was twice elected President of the Aleut League, which later became known as the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association; and

WHEREAS: When President Nixon signed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) into law, Flore was present to witness the signing; and

WHEREAS: In 1972, Flore was named Director of Alaska Native Affairs in Washington, D.C., serving as liaison between the Department of the Interior and the newly formed 12 regional corporations, which were created pursuant to ANCSA; and

WHEREAS: Flore advocated for the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, wherein the U.S. Government apologized and made restitution to the Aleuts interned during World War II; and

WHEREAS: Flore also served on the Board of Directors of St. George Tanaq Corporation and St. George Chadux Corporation; and

WHEREAS: Flore was honored by AFN in 2006 with its Public Service Award; and

WHEREAS: Flore was a respected educator, Native leader and advocate for all Alaska Natives; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN recognizes and honors Flore Lekanof, Sr. for his lifetime of accomplishments and contributions to Alaska Natives.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



AFN BOARD RESOLUTIONS

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-02

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

WHEREAS: On Tuesday, August 24, 2010, Tea Party candidate Joe Miller defeated Senator Lisa Murkowski in a bid for the Alaska Republican Party's nomination with 51 percent of the vote in the primary election; and

WHEREAS: On September 17, 2010, Senator Lisa Murkowski announced that she would campaign as a write-in candidate for the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates the long-standing commitment of Senator Lisa Murkowski to the Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates Senator Lisa Murkowski's thoughtful approach to many issues of importance to the Alaska Native community, including support for education, health, transportation, and other programs critical to the well-being of Alaska's Native community; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that Senator Lisa Murkowski is an active member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and served as Vice Chair of the Committee during the 110th Congress; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that, in 2009, Senator Lisa Murkowski was honored with a Congressional Leadership Award by the National Congress of American Indians, and that the Senator is the first Alaskan to receive this award; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that, through her role as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, as a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and as a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Senator Lisa Murkowski has shown her commitment to increasing the standard of living for rural and Alaska Native residents, and supporting the vibrancy of Alaska Native cultures; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that Senator Lisa Murkowski has worked tirelessly as a Member of the United States Senate to support our Alaska Native veterans and to ensure that the federal government duly recognizes and appreciates the many generations of Alaska Native veterans and their strong tradition of commitment to serving our Nation; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that Senator Lisa Murkowski has been a strong advocate for Native education, supporting continued funding for the Alaska Native Education Program, the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program and the Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations program, and supporting an amendment to the Ester Martinez Native American Language Act to include program activities for Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that Senator Lisa Murkowski was a strong advocate for the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which became law earlier this year; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that Senator Lisa Murkowski has worked with the Obama Administration to increase funding for the chronically under funded Indian Health Service budget, and worked to secure \$250 million in funding for new hospitals in Barrow and Nome; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that Senator Lisa Murkowski has worked with the Obama Administration to increase funding for the construction of health and sanitation facilities in rural Alaska, including, in 2009, \$18.5 million for Alaska Native Villages wastewater and drinking facilities, and additional funding for facilities in Buckland; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that, as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Senator Lisa Murkowski helped lead an effort to direct federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to rural Alaska communities, including working directly with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure that assistance was directed to western Alaska villages, and doubling funding in 2008 for weatherization assistance to help reduce rural heating bills; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that, as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Senator Lisa Murkowski won committee approval as part of a Renewable Energy Standard that would provide Tribes and Native Corporations double credits to help finance renewable energy projects in rural areas; and

- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that, as a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator Lisa Murkowski has worked to secure funding for the Denali Commission, including \$11.8 million to fund the Commission's rural energy program, supporting wind power, geothermal and small hydroelectric projects to advance efforts to cut high rural heating and electricity costs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that, since 2003, Senator Lisa Murkowski has been a consistent supporter of the Indian Reservation Roads program, has secured funding for the Denali Commission for Native village road improvements, and has secured funding for harbor improvements in rural villages; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that, in 2008, Senator Lisa Murkowski co-sponsored the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, which gave Native housing programs new authority to use funds to construct necessary utilities around housing projects; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates that Senator Lisa Murkowski has sponsored legislation that would provide flexibility within the No Child Left Behind Act to support Native language immersion programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates Senator Lisa Murkowski's efforts to secure amendments to the Tribal Law and Order Act, which was signed into law by President Obama on July 29, 2010, to address the lack of law enforcement in Alaska's rural communities, including requiring the federal Government Accountability Office to evaluate the ability of Indian Health Service facilities to handle forensic evidence and to offer recommendations for improvements; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates Senator Lisa Murkowski's leadership in the effort to combat suicide in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates Senator Lisa Murkowski's efforts to secure Native subsistence rights; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes and appreciates Senator Lisa Murkowski's commitment over the last eight years, through legislation and by other means, to the Alaska Native community, Tribes and Native Corporations, including, among other efforts, sponsoring and passing a tax deduction enabling North Slope villages to afford traditional subsistence whaling hunts, sponsoring and passing a land exchange to allow the village of Newtok to relocate, sponsoring and passing the Native Allotment Subdivision Act to resolve land programs for Alaska Native allotment holders, sponsoring and passing the Alaska Land Conveyance Acceleration Act to speed up the conveyance of ANCSA lands to Native Corporations, sponsoring and passing the Izembek Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange to

help King Cove residents gain safe access to medical care, and sponsoring and passing legislation to provide pension payments to World War II veterans of the Alaska Territorial Guard; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives appreciates Senator Lisa Murkowski's decision to run as a write-in candidate for United States Senator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives endorses Lisa Murkowski as a candidate for the office of United States Senator.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-03

TITLE: A CALL TO ACTION TO CONGRESS AND THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES TO FULLY PROTECT AND ENHANCE SUBSISTENCE HUNTING, FISHING AND GATHERING FOR ALASKA NATIVES

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have engaged in hunting, fishing and gathering of fish, game and marine mammals since time immemorial, a way of life which must be protected and enhanced for the sake of this and future generations of Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have a basic human right to their subsistence way of life and to maintain their cultural existence; and

WHEREAS: Subsistence resources constitute a substantial majority of the nutritional needs of Alaska Native people, and, in particular, in rural areas where the need for subsistence resources for daily nutritional, spiritual and cultural sustenance is the greatest; and

WHEREAS: The United States Government is needlessly adding bureaucracy to traditional hunting and fishing in Alaska, through the increasing requirements for permits and Duck Stamps; causing hardship throughout Alaska, especially due to the Government underfunding and understaffing its efforts; and

WHEREAS: President Barack Obama promised, in both his campaign and once elected to office, a time of transformational change that would improve our lives in real concrete ways, and such change has not happened; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has refused to implement the authorizations of Title VIII of ANILCA and actively undermines Alaska Native hunting and fishing, and has failed to meet the obligations of ANILCA since at least 1989; and

WHEREAS: The United States Government has failed to live up to its trust responsibility to Alaska Natives (and the commitments it made to them in ANCSA and ANILCA) to establish, and implement, a comprehensive federal program to protect sustainable hunting, fishing and gathering opportunities and resources for Alaska Natives and rural residents; and

WHEREAS: The results of the Secretarial Review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program fall far short of what is needed to protect our subsistence way of life and AFN hereby rejects it as insufficient; and

WHEREAS: The current Federal subsistence management regime allows for the reclassification of subsistence-dependent communities to “urban” because of the growth of a nearby community, such as the Village of Saxman, thereby resulting in the detrimental loss of the Federal subsistence priority; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Congress of the United States should convene full and complete oversight hearings on: drafting of new federal legislation to protect all Alaska Natives and other rural Alaskans in continuing their pursuit of food and nourishment for their families; which in turn supports strengthening Native culture and protection of Indigenous religious beliefs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress should consider new ways, and new laws, to protect subsistence hunting and fishing by Alaska Natives, because of the failure to adequately implement Title VIII of ANILCA and the failure to establish and implement proper protection of subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering by and for Alaska Natives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives dedicate itself, once again, to advocating for a strong Alaska Native community, unified in purpose and action to protect our traditional ways of life; and pro-actively working with the committees of the United States Congress, including the Appropriations committees of both the House and Senate, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the House Committee on Natural Resources, and any successor committees the Congress may establish, to enact new laws to protect subsistence hunting and fishing by all Alaska Natives on all Federal and state lands and marine waters in Alaska, as well as Native Allotments lands conveyed pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as well as establishing a role for Alaskan Natives in subsistence management and other means to preserve and enhance the economic conditions and opportunities available to Alaska Natives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Federal Subsistence Board should consider new laws or regulations to ensure that “rural” communities are not reclassified as “urban” as a result of the growth of nearby urban communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives shall review all legal options available to bring and defend, where needed, any and all legal actions to protect Alaska Native subsistence rights; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives shall immediately undertake an effort to raise funds for Native Rights protection.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-04

TITLE: VILLAGE SURVIVAL: HIGH COST OF HEATING FUEL

WHEREAS: Most Alaska Native Villages face high costs heating and electricity; and

WHEREAS: Home heating fuel donation programs have helped the Villages with free heating fuel for years; and

WHEREAS: Most Alaska Native Villages have high unemployment rate, these programs have offset some hardship in home heating.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN urge oil companies operating in Alaska to match the home heating donation programs; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that this resolution is forwarded to the oil companies urging them to participate in the free home heating program.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-05

TITLE: ASKING PRESIDENT OBAMA TO REQUEST FULL FUNDING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS FOR 2012 AND BEYOND

WHEREAS: The Office of Management and Budget has directed the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop proposed budgets for 2010 that reflect a 7.5% budget cut to BIA funding; and

WHEREAS: Bureau of Indian Affairs funds have historically been used in Alaska to provide a broad range of services to Tribal members including: Higher Education Scholarships; Adult Vocational Training; Tribal Operations; Land Management Services; Housing; Planning Assistance; Adult Basic Education Services; Children and Family Social Services, General Assistance; Subsistence and Fisheries Research and Advocacy; BIA Road Maintenance among other services; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives and American Indians experience the highest levels of unemployment, poverty, suicide, substance abuse, the cost of living and other negative indicators in the nations and depend on federal funding to help address these issues; and

WHEREAS: Under the Bush Administration, funding for Native Americans was flat-lined and did not keep up with the rate of inflation, during a time 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 Tribal population; and

WHEREAS: In 2010, funding for Native American programs was increased for the first time in 12 years; and

WHEREAS: The budget cuts proposed for 2012 would reduce funding levels to below that of 1998 and are the worst proposed in many years; and

WHEREAS: Funding for a wide array of services essential to the welfare and success of Native Americans and Alaska Natives has never been adequate to meet the needs, and cuts to funding for these services are essentially another form of termination by the United States, a failed policy that has been repudiated by the courts and previous Presidential administrations; and

WHEREAS: Administration officials claim that the Office of Management and Budget dictate the budget cuts and that they are powerless over OMB decisions; and

WHEREAS: Funding for Alaska Native and Native American programs is a small portion of the overall federal budget, were agreed to or provided for in treaties, statutes and court decisions and the proposed budget cuts will do little to balance the federal budget but will cause great harm to Alaska Natives and Native Americans and the Tribal Governments which seek to meet their needs; and

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 for key areas of the BIA budget and Native American Programs that support education, social, economic development and other basic services in rural isolated economically depressed Tribal communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that we respectfully request President Obama to hold harmless Alaska Native and Native American Programs funding levels in FY2012 and beyond; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we do not accept the excuse that OMB dictates the budget, it is not OMB that has the ultimate responsibility for proposing a budget; it is the President of the United States; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we request that federal funding for Native Americans be permanently taken off the list of discretionary funding subject to arbitrary, harmful across the board funding cuts.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-06

- TITLE:** REQUEST FULL FUNDING OF THE “ALASKA ENERGY PATHWAYS” PROJECTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) 2010 Federal Priorities states “the current energy crisis threatens the very survival of our rural communities”; and
- WHEREAS:** Identifying and implementing appropriate alternative energy resources and projects serves to counter this threat; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) 2010 Priorities recommends “Congress, through a state-federal partnership, should provide the capital funding to transition rural Alaska communities within 20 years to alternative energy sources for electric power generation wherever it is feasible to do so,”; and
- WHEREAS:** Governor Sean Parnell signed HB306, the Alaska Energy Policy Act, which sets the goals of a 15% per-capita increase in energy efficiency by 2020 and that 50% of the State’s electricity come from renewable resources by 2025; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Energy Authority has studied the problem in detail, and in 2010 published the Energy Pathways Towards Energy Independence, which includes a detailed energy survey of each rural Alaskan Community, identifies appropriate alternative energy resources and projects, estimates financial costs and benefits, makes recommendations, establishes timelines and estimates capital requirements; and
- WHEREAS:** The “Energy Pathways” states these cost, totaled in the “Capital Cost Rollup” portion of the “Energy Pathways” exceed the debt carrying capacity of communities in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Most of these communities are economically distressed Native Villages; and
- WHEREAS:** The “Energy Pathways” points out there are many non-financial benefits which accrue to the community as a whole of renewable energy development including energy, economic and environmental security, job creation, workforce development, and economic opportunity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that Congress, and the State of Alaska, through a state-federal partnership, should provide full funding according to schedule for conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy projects in rural Villages identified as economical and totaled in the “Capital Cost Rollup” by the Alaska Energy Authority in the 2010 Energy Pathways.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-07

TITLE: ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL NATIVE VETERAN LIAISON POSITIONS

WHEREAS: Many veterans who have proudly served our country reside in rural villages throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS: These veterans are entitled to various benefits afforded them as enlisted men and women, including health, disability, education, housing, training and burial; and

WHEREAS: A veteran who may receive benefits is defined by the federal government as an individual who has served 181 active duty days, and received a honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS: It is the belief of the Alaska Native Veterans Association that more outreach and interaction is needed to ensure that rural veterans receive all the benefits entitled them; and

WHEREAS: The establishment of a Native veteran's liaison in each region would increase that outreach and interaction, and assist veterans with their benefits paperwork; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN strongly urge the regional Native non-profit and tribal organizations to establish Native regional liaisons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these liaison positions will work directly with Alaska Native veterans to ensure they receive full benefits due them.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-08

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF ALASKA SECURE PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO/FROM DIOMEDE, AK, AND OTHER SIMILARLY SITUATED COMMUNITIES
- WHEREAS:** The City of Diomedes is located on a remote island in the Bering Sea, and commencing in June, 2010, it lost all passenger transportation services to and from the rest of Alaska for the second year in a row; and
- WHEREAS:** Regular passenger services to/from rural communities are vital to their survival; and
- WHEREAS:** The loss of passenger services jeopardizes the community's ability to maintain basic infrastructure such as the power plant and transmission lines, telecommunication services, and water-sanitation plant, as maintenance personnel have no access to Diomedes; and
- WHEREAS:** The loss of passenger services has resulted in patients needing access to necessary medical care being stranded on Diomedes; and
- WHEREAS:** The loss of passenger services has resulted in the loss of access to first responders and service providers, such as medical doctors, dentists, social workers, mental health clinicians, and law enforcement officers; and
- WHEREAS:** The loss of passenger services and lack of access to medical care creates a credible threat of an imminent outbreak of disease, as evidenced by the Swine Flu scare in Diomedes in 2009; and
- WHEREAS:** The loss of passenger services has resulted in community members resorting to a perilous journey by sea in small open skiffs to and from Wales in order to travel to/from Diomedes – the same journey that claimed the lives of 4 adults, 1 teenager, and 1 child in 1998; and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Essential Air Services (EAS) Program has offered to provide a subsidy toward air passenger services to/from Diomedes, but require a 50% match; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Diomedes is a political subdivision within the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska, through the Department of Transportation (DOT), has the obligation to “provide for the safe movement of people and goods and the delivery of State services,” as indicated in DOT’s mission statement; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has been aware of the subsidy for two years now, and although there are regional entities willing to contribute toward the match, the State has not coordinated the match nor implemented an alternative to provide for regular passenger services to/from Diomedes; and

WHEREAS: The people of Diomedes are residents of the State of Alaska, and are no less worthy of transportation services than residents of other communities in the state; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that we request that the State of Alaska fulfill its obligation to ensure communities, including rural villages, are afforded with basic transportation services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that we request that the State of Alaska provide the required 50% match toward the EAS subsidy or implement another alternative that ensures basic passenger services to/from Diomedes and other similarly situated communities.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-09

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATHS OF HOMELESS ALASKANS IN ANCHORAGE AND OTHER HUBS
- WHEREAS:** There has been a serious increase in the numbers of homeless Alaskans from all over the state dying in and around Anchorage during the past eighteen months, resulting in 25 deaths; and
- WHEREAS:** At least fifteen of the 25 homeless deaths occurring between May 1, 2009 and October 10, 2010 have been Alaska Native; and
- WHEREAS:** An unacceptable number of these deaths have not been thoroughly investigated because there was “no foul play suspected”; and
- WHEREAS:** An unacceptable number of these deaths do not have an autopsy conducted and cause of death determinations rely upon toxicology reports that show only the alcohol and drug consumption prior to death; and
- WHEREAS:** Alcohol and/or drug consumption prior to death does not equate to a cause of death and other investigation would indicate whether there were definitive causes of death; and
- WHEREAS:** An unacceptable number of these deaths have no reported cause and continue to be considered “pending toxicology report” or “pending autopsy”; and
- WHEREAS:** The results of the "pending toxicology reports" and "pending autopsy" are not made public; and
- WHEREAS:** The Municipality of Anchorage, through the Homeless Leadership Task Force and the community have attempted to bring solutions to the problem of addicted homeless people; and
- WHEREAS:** There have already been eleven deaths in 2010, demonstrating that no current efforts have achieved their desired outcome of reducing death amongst the chronically homeless alcoholic; and
- WHEREAS:** The deaths have an impact on all Alaskans as investigations show these people are from all over the state; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2010 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN calls for a comprehensive investigation of any death described above that is without a certain cause and that potential linkages and trends for these deaths is fully examined.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-10

TITLE: A RESOLUTION ENDORSING RETENTION OF ALASKA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DANA FABE

WHEREAS: Alaska Supreme Court Justices are not directly selected by voters but must be voted on for retention every ten years; and

WHEREAS: Justice Dana Fabe is up for retention this November; and

WHEREAS: Justice Fabe is under a last-minute aggressive attack from special interest trying to unseat her; and

WHEREAS: Justice Fabe authored *John v. Baker*, which held that tribes have the inherent authority to adjudicate custody disputes among members; and

WHEREAS: *John v. Baker* was a watershed moment in Alaska law and it has served as the basis of numerous Court decisions upholding the decisions of tribal courts ever since; and

WHEREAS: Justice Fabe has shown respect for the law and respect for Alaska Native tribal sovereignty and tribal courts and the important role tribal courts play in our communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives strongly endorses Dana Fabe as an Alaska Supreme Court Justice and encourages its membership to vote to retain her.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



SUBSISTENCE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-11

- TITLE:** THE PROTECTION AND CONTINUATION OF CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL PRACTICES FOR MARINE MAMMAL SUBSISTENCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native peoples have developed rich cultures and practices around marine mammal harvest and utilization since time immemorial, and these practices continue today; and
- WHEREAS:** Hunting, proper hide preparation and skin sewing are customary and traditional activities that are essential components of one's cultural identity, and these skills are taught and passed from one generation to the next; and
- WHEREAS:** The Marine Mammal Protection Act was made law in 1972 prohibiting the take, import and export of marine mammals by United States citizens; and
- WHEREAS:** Section ID1(b) was included in the Marine Mammal Protection Act to exempt coastal Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos from these take prohibitions for non-wasteful subsistence and handicraft purposes; and
- WHEREAS:** The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 uses the original definition of "Native" as established in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971; and
- WHEREAS:** In the CFRs, "Native" means a citizen of the United States who is a person of one-fourth degree or more Alaska Indian (including Tsimshian Indians enrolled or not enrolled in the Metlakatla Indian Community) Eskimo, or Aleut blood, or combination thereof, or originally enrolled under Section 5 of ANCSA; and
- WHEREAS:** The regulations are more restrictive than the language in the Marine Mammal Protection Act and inconsistent with the legislative history; and
- WHEREAS:** Families today are being affected by these regulations as some children or grandchildren do not meet this minimum blood quantum; and
- WHEREAS:** Marine mammal hunting, utilization and handicraft remain vital to the cultural identity and survival of Alaska Native cultures and their economic well being; and
- WHEREAS:** Cultural traditions and knowledge are in danger of being lost because of these regulations; and

WHEREAS: In 2009, the delegates to the Alaska Federation of Natives passed resolution 09-08 urging the Secretary of Interior take immediate and all necessary action to ensure that lineal descendants and Alaska Native tribal members of less than one-fourth blood quantum may continue their subsistence traditions pertaining to sea otter harvest and use; and

WHEREAS: The regulations remain unchanged, requiring that an Alaska Native individual be of one-fourth or more Alaska Native blood quantum or originally enrolled under ANCSA in order to participate in sea otter or other marine mammal subsistence activities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives petition the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce to change the definition of "Alaskan Native" under 50 CFR 18.3 and 50 CFR 216.3 to include lineal Alaska Natives descendants of less than one-fourth blood quantum.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG REGION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: REFER TO AFN BOARD SUBSISTENCE COMMITTEE



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-12

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO CONSULT MEANINGFULLY WITH WALRUS HUNTING COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED BY ESKIMO WALRUS COMMISSION ON PACIFIC WALRUS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT DETERMINATION

WHEREAS: Eskimo Walrus Commission (EWC) was formed in 1978 with representation from 19 coastal walrus hunting communities throughout the Northern, Northwestern, and Western Alaska; and

WHEREAS: EWC has represented Alaska Native walrus hunters and the communities for more than 30 years as co-managers with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS); and

WHEREAS: The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) allows Alaska Native organizations like EWC to enter into cooperative agreements with USFWS to conserve marine mammals and provide co-management of subsistence use by Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The indigenous residents of the coastal communities have shared a close relationship with marine mammals such as the Pacific walrus for over 2000 years as an essential element of the diet, economy, social fabric, and cultural well-being; and

WHEREAS: USFWS is preparing a 12-month Status Review on whether the listing of Pacific walrus as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is (a) not warranted; (b) warranted; or (c) warranted but precluded; and

WHEREAS: EWC does not endorse this Status Review as adequate as it is devoid of explicit contributions, knowledge, and perspectives from the tribes represented by EWC, and its:

- Omission of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) or local observations on the walrus ecosystem and subsistence harvesting practices;
- Primary focus on Alaska Native harvest as the singular threat to Pacific walrus; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives are well aware of the threats to Pacific walrus and subsistence needs that result from climate change, industrial development, and expansion of commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS: EWC believes that USFWS can benefit from subsistence hunters' TEK, observations, perspectives, and thoughts to build a more comprehensive picture of the current state and threats with respect to the Pacific walrus; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN recommends USFWS to recognize the importance of protecting and accommodating Alaska Native subsistence harvest of Pacific walrus in its ESA findings and determinations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN request the Secretary of Interior to direct the USFWS to fulfill their Executive Order 13175 (2000) mandate requirement to meaningfully consult and collaborate in "good faith" in any further ESA consideration of the Pacific walrus as findings may have implications of its subsistence use by Alaska Native walrus hunting communities.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC., AND NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-13

TITLE: CALLING FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS REGARDING THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES (USFWS) ON-GOING FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT PREDATOR MANAGEMENT FOR ADEQUATE SUBSISTENCE HARVEST NEEDS IN RURAL ALASKA

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and

WHEREAS: The AVCP Resolution No. 09-10-04, subsequently adopted as Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Resolution No. 09-11 (incorporated here be reference), detailed substantial issues regarding the failure of the federal subsistence management system in Alaska to fulfill its obligations to Alaska's Native people by allowing populations important for subsistence to prove only minimal harvest – or remain closed to harvest entirely – despite scientifically credible management alternatives being available, have not even been accorded a formal response by the USFWS; and

WHEREAS: In direct contradiction with subsistence standards relevant to ANILCA, the USFWS administration continued deferral of actively addressing this issue and has placed regional managers in the situation where:

- Application of sound scientific management principles have been, and continue to be precluded or pre-empted;
- Substantial information has been, and continues to be avoided, minimized, suppressed or dismissed; and,
- It is highly detrimental to achieving or maintaining either current or long-term integrity of providing for adequate or sustainable subsistence harvest needs in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Actions of the USFWS regarding the Unimak Caribou Herd in May and June of 2010, demonstrate that its national leadership – through incorporation of animal welfare ideologies-apparently has no intent to accept responsibility for implementing predator management throughout the rest of Alaska. They have also chosen to interpret management policy in accordance with standards of the 48 contiguous states, that have little in common, either biologically, socially or economically, with rural Alaska subsistence practices; and

WHEREAS: Nowhere in the rest of the nation have National Wildlife Refuges been established with the explicit management purpose to provide a subsistence management (i.e., harvest) Priority; and

WHEREAS: The concerns of rural Alaska villages surrounding this issue have been stated for several years through Alaska Federation of Native resolution #'s 00-47, 01-107, 02-12, 03-08, 04-09, 05-13, 06-12, 06-14, 07-15 and 09-11 (all incorporated here by reference) along with continued pleas to proactively address this issue by at least seven of the ten regional subsistence councils since the 1990s; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that they urge Alaska's Congressional delegation to pursue and hold Congressional hearings on the USFWS predator management policy in Alaska as related to the mandate under Title VIII of ANILCA to provide for subsistence harvest needs of the Alaska Natives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this issue maintains its long-standing Tier 1 status for rural Alaska from the Alaska Federation of Natives and it is pursued as a high priority item for their supportive action along with the National Congress of American Indians.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-14

TITLE: REQUESTING TRIBAL CONSULTATION BEFORE THE ISSUANCE OF OPERATING PERMITS FOR SPORT/RECREATIONAL HUNTER TRANSPORTERS IN GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and

WHEREAS: At the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council meeting at Marshall, Alaska on September 4-7, 2007, the Refuge Manager indicated that the area sport/recreational hunter transporters were only permitted to operate in areas outside the river corridor away from traditional and customary accessed hunting areas for subsistence hunters; and

WHEREAS: Our tribal and village members have noticed a considerable increase of transporter activity in close proximity to our traditional hunting areas; and

WHEREAS: Transporters operating in our traditional hunting and gathering grounds within the confines of the federally managed game managed units will have a negative impact on our ability to harvest moose and other animals to feed our families; and

WHEREAS: In September 2004, in his memorandum to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, President George W. Bush included the following statement, "Accordingly, the head of each executive department and agency (agency) shall continue to ensure to the greatest extent practicable and as permitted by United States law that the agency's working relationship with federally recognized tribal governments fully respects the rights of self-government and self-determination due tribal governments"; ("2004 Executive Memorandum"); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and other federal management agencies to consult with regional Alaska Native Corporations, Tribal Councils, and Alaska Native Allotment owners prior to the issuance of operating permits on federal lands in close proximity to Alaska Native lands in accordance with the 2004 Executive Memorandum.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF
VILLAGE COUNCIL
PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND
PASSED



HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-15

TITLE: SUPPORTING REGIONAL WELLNESS INITIATIVES

WHEREAS: The Statewide Wellness Initiative of the Alaska Federation of Natives to the regional Alaska Native non-profits through the Alaska Native Sobriety and Alcohol Control Program has allowed the villages throughout Alaska to become proactive locally in addressing the overwhelming issues faced by individuals and families in their communities of residence; and

WHEREAS: A significant percentage of the Alaska Native population in the communities are in various stages of overcoming learned multi-generational behaviors that include alcohol and drug abuse, resulting in harmful side effects of violence and the spiraling self-destruction both personal and social; and

WHEREAS: Maintaining the village-based human resources to deliver quality services or establishing support networks can be extremely limited and high percentages of children and families continue to be affected by alcohol and drugs; and

WHEREAS: The Wellness Project utilizes the traditional modality to build local capacity and consensus across the regions by allowing villages to educate themselves about the challenges by holding: 1) local Wellness Conferences; 2) safe sober activities as a means to reconnect to traditional cultural values; or, 3) alternative activities that promote overall health and wellness; and

WHEREAS: Wellness Initiative program remains an important priority in the Self Reliance, Self Determination, and Integrity of Native Culture; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., requests Wellness Project funding agencies maintain the local empowerment approach that enables Wellness discussions or activities at a local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the that the Wellness Project funding agencies allow capacity building activities to continue for the villages to maintain and support the human resources working to rebuild attitudes of Wellness for the benefit of our community and the children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., the wellness project funding agencies support the non-treatment program approach that works to shift the tools, responsibility and power of healing and development of healthy behaviors to individuals, families and communities, by changing attitudes, behaviors and belief systems.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-16

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR STATE-RECOGNIZED TRIBAL DEATH CERTIFICATES AND REGIONALLY-BASED MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICES

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and

WHEREAS: The current process and requirements for declaring an Alaska Native deceased and issuing a certified death certificate sometimes imposes both financial and personal hardship on that person's family members; and,

WHEREAS: The current process for conducting an autopsy on an individual who passes away in an Alaska Native village also imposes a financial and personal hardship on those family members; and

WHEREAS: In order for declaring an individual deceased, issuing a certified death certificate, and for agreeing to or conducting an autopsy on a Native individual who passes away in an Alaska Native village, the family must wait until a medical examiner from Anchorage arrives in the village to declare that individual deceased, or begin the investigative process in the event an individual dies under violent or questionable circumstances; and,

WHEREAS: The establishment of a regionally-based medical examiner's office in the hub towns/communities would minimize the costs associated with certifying deaths; and,

WHEREAS: The recognition of Tribal death certificates in non-violent deaths or death by natural causes would minimize the personal burdens associated with delayed funerals; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that they support the establishment and funding of a regionally-based medical examiner's office and state-recognized Tribal death certificates.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-17

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION REGARDING NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA) FUNDING
- WHEREAS:** The Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program, created by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is a primary source of funding in Alaska for affordable housing and housing-related activities for low-income Alaska Native and American Indian families; and
- WHEREAS:** The IHBG program enables Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) to develop and operate elder and family rental housing, provide affordable home loans and down payment assistance, deliver housing readiness counseling, issue tenant-based and project-based rental assistance vouchers, provide weatherization upgrades, combat homelessness, and provide supportive housing for individuals with special needs; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA funding enables Tribes and TDHEs to leverage significant additional public and private sector resources to serve the affordable housing needs of Alaska Native and American Indian families; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the many successes and innovations that may be attributed to NAHASDA, housing conditions for Native Americans remain far inferior to those of the general U.S. population; and
- WHEREAS:** The President's 2011 budget proposes to reduce the IHBG appropriation to \$580 million, an amount 17% less than the level enacted for 2010 and the lowest single-year funding amount for the IHBG since the NAHASDA became law in 1996; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA has proven to be effective in addressing the severe shortage of safe, affordable housing for Native Americans by enabling Tribes and TDHEs to build 8,130 homeownership and 5,011 rental units, acquire 3,811 homeownership and 800 rental units, and rehabilitate 27,422 homeownership and 5,289 rental units from 2003 to 2008 alone; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that Congress provide fiscal year 2011 funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant (NAHASDA) at no less than the 2010 level of \$700 million.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET REGION INC., ALEUTIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY, ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-18

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT OF 2010, S.3740

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives want safe, healthy communities in which to live and raise our children; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives continue to suffer from disproportionately high rates of substance abuse, child abuse and neglect, forcible sexual assault, domestic violence and suicide; and

WHEREAS: With the passage of Statehood, the State of Alaska asserted their jurisdictional authority over these issues, but lacks the law enforcement presence in much of rural Alaska to enforce State Law, with the net result that there is a law enforcement vacuum in many isolated Native Villages; and

WHEREAS: Many Alaska Native villages depend on Alaska State Troopers, located in regional hubs to respond to serious crimes as weather, staffing and available resources permit; and

WHEREAS: On August 5, 2010 Senator Mark Begich has introduced S 3740 entitled the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act of 2010, which if enacted into law as written, would:

- Set in place a demonstration project whereby up to Nine Tribal Councils in Alaska would exercise jurisdiction over persons in Indian or Alaska Native descent (or persons in consensual relationships with tribal members) over alcohol and drug related matters for a five year period;
- Enhance coordination and communication among Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies;
- Increase funding for, and therefore availability of local law enforcement; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that we express our full support for the provisions contained in the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act and call upon our Congressional Delegation, Members of Congress and the President to work to enact S.3740 as written promptly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on the passage of S.3740 the nine tribal councils selected be a fair representation from around the entire state and that the selection of the nine tribal councils are prioritized as follows:

- 1) To those villages with no law enforcement
- 2) Villages with existing Village Public Safety Officers (VPSO's)
- 3) To city law enforcement

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK INC., NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION AND BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-19

TITLE: APPROPRIATION OF MORE FUNDS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS BY STATE OF ALASKA AND CONGRESS

WHEREAS: Most Alaska Native Villages face high costs for electricity; and

WHEREAS: The President of the United States Barack Obama declared to prioritize the appropriation of more funds available for research on renewable energy projects; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that they urge the United States Congress to consider increasing the appropriations of funds for the purposes of research on renewable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded and directed to the President of the United States of America and to the Congressional Committees of proper jurisdiction in Washington, DC on energy issues and to the Governor of the State of Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: NAPAKIAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-20

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE REPRESENTATION OF ALASKA NATIVES IN THE COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) PROGRAM
- WHEREAS:** The percentage of children who are Alaska Native in state custody (62%) through the child welfare system is greatly disproportionate to their corresponding percentage in the general population (19%), and
- WHEREAS:** The disproportionality of Alaska Native children in custody over the last ten years has increased in spite of the State of Alaska's efforts to remedy the disproportionality; and
- WHEREAS:** Innovative new processes are needed that attend to the cultural and legal issues that are specific to Alaska Native families; and
- WHEREAS:** One such innovative program is the CASA program, where well-trained volunteers advocate for the best interests of children in the state's or tribe's custody; and
- WHEREAS:** The CASA program has served in other states to greatly increase the diversity of those who speak on behalf of children so that they reflect the ethnicity of the children themselves; and
- WHEREAS:** New innovative programs run by tribes and tribal organizations will increase the numbers of Alaska Native CASA volunteers; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Delegates of the 2010 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN supports efforts to increase the number of Alaska Native CASA volunteers as an effective and meaningful way to address the extreme disproportionality of Alaska Native children in the child welfare system.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-21

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Legal Services Corporation's (ALSC's) lawyers serve a low income population exceeding 80,000 Alaskans, including over 20,000 Native Alaskans, in ten offices around the state; and
- WHEREAS:** Although the May 2000 Alaska Supreme Court Access to Civil Justice Task Force Report recommended that ALSC be funded at \$5 million annually, ALSC's actual funding has remained at approximately \$3 million since that time; and
- WHEREAS:** That same report estimated that approximately 1/2 of these Alaskans would face a legal need at some point during any given 12-month period; and
- WHEREAS:** ALSC estimates that it is currently providing assistance to only 10%-20% of those needing such assistance, which appears to be consistent with the estimate of 20% in the national Legal Services Corporation report from September 2005, "Documenting the Justice Gap in America"; and
- WHEREAS:** The vast majority of ALSC's cases involve the basic human necessities of shelter, food, access to medical care, income, maintenance, and safety and stability within the family; and
- WHEREAS:** Several regional Native nonprofits, including Bristol Bay Native Association, Maniilaq Association, and Kawerak have made significant financial and in-kind contributions over the years for the re-establishment and support of small ALSC offices which had formerly been closed in the communities of Dillingham, Nome, and Kotzebue; and others, including the Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, and the Nome Eskimo Community have otherwise provided support for ALSC; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska, which had for several years been known as one of only five states making no appropriation for civil legal assistance to its citizens, did make an appropriation to ALSC for FY 2010, approved by Governor Parnell, in the amount of \$350,000, but it is unclear whether this will be sustained in future fiscal years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN Urges Governor Parnell to retain and increase the appropriation for Alaska Legal Services Corporation in his Proposed FY 2011 Budget, and urges The Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding, and urges Congress to award sufficient funding to The Federal Legal Services Corporation to support Alaska Legal Services Corporation's Mission "Of Providing Free Legal Services On Vital Issues To Low Income Alaskans."

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-22

TITLE: URGING THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY AND THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) TO INCREASE SERVICE TO RURAL ALASKA AIR HUB COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: Most of rural Alaska is not connected to the outside road system and is highly dependent on air travel; and

WHEREAS: Historically, at times, one airline has typically monopolized air travel between Anchorage, Fairbanks and the regional air communities like Nome, Aleutian/Pribilof Region, Bethel, Dillingham, King Salmon, Kotzebue and Barrow, and there have been no alternative routes such as direct flights to Seattle or scheduled flights between rural communities; and

WHEREAS: The lack of competitive air service is a bottleneck which drives up costs, causes travel delays and hamper the rural Alaska economies; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges domestic airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration, as appropriate, to consider means of adding new air links to all of the regional hub towns like Bethel, Barrow, Dillingham, King Salmon, Kodiak, Nome, Aleutian/Pribilof Region, Sitka, Juneau, Ketchikan and Kotzebue.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-23

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING LOCAL AIRLINES TO BE LENIENT IN ACCOMODATING PEOPLE WITH FAMILY EMERGENCIES

WHEREAS: The residents of Rural Alaska are highly dependent on air travel and they spend a great deal of money on air travel; and

WHEREAS: It is not uncommon for Rural Alaska residents to have urgent, unexpected travel needs because of family emergencies; and

WHEREAS: The communities in Rural Alaska are small and in most instances airline ticket agents know the local passengers personally; and

WHEREAS: The airlines are generally accommodating, there have been occasions when airline rules seem to over-ride common sense; as an example, in one instance a passenger arriving in Dillingham learned of a serious family emergency in Anchorage, but was not allowed to re-board the return flight despite the availability of seats; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges local airlines to use compassion and common sense, and to be lenient in waiving rules that don't affect safety when dealing with customers with serious family emergencies.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-24

- TITLE:** SEEKING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS:** The Elders and Youth Conference recognized suicide as a serious concern that directly impact Alaska Natives in both urban and rural communities, Alaska Natives are committing suicide at a rate five times that of the national average; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Tribes, Alaska Native Organizations, and Youth and Elders need to come together to address the issues of suicide on a consensus basis for the health and well-being of our people; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN recognizes that suicide and problems associated with alcohol and drug abuse adversely affects Alaska Natives and our villages in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN recognizes the need to seek additional funding to combat suicide; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN wishes to obtain funding focused on reducing substance abuse and depression through promotion of additional Native culture; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., Alaska Native Villages/communities, local and regional tribal governments, ANCSA Corporations, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the Alaska Native Health Board, and regional non-profits take ownership of this issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN support efforts to address this serious issue by seeking funding and training opportunities to better prepare communities for suicide prevention and to respond to incidents of suicide, as well as to provide support to families who have experienced suicide or suicide attempts by a loved one.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
AND 2010 STATEWIDE ELDERS AND YOUTH
COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND
PASSED



CULTURAL

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-25

TITLE: IN OPPOSITION TO THE DEFINITION OF SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED NATIVE HANDICRAFTS AS PORTRAYED IN A POSTER DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

WHEREAS: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has developed a poster that describes authentic Native handicrafts as items that are composed wholly, or in some significant respect, of natural materials which are significantly altered from their natural form; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service states in its poster that marine mammal parts must be “significantly altered” to qualify as authentic Native handicrafts, in order to be sold to non-Natives; and

WHEREAS: The term “significantly altered” is not clearly defined and can have different meanings for different people; and

WHEREAS: Native handicraft products are determined by crafts persons according to their individual creative abilities as has always been done for thousands of years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that the creativeness of handicrafts by Alaska Native persons should not be hindered by Federal regulations or posters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service should continue the process of consulting with Alaska Native Tribal organizations such as the Indigenous People’s Council for Marine Mammals (IPCoMM) to consider definitions of terms such as “significantly,” “altered” and “handicrafts” before it devises regulations or posters on marine mammal handicrafts, and a common understanding is reached between parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service should continue coordination of efforts on the issue of Native handicrafts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service should model its approaches to the Native handicrafts issue to be more in line with those of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

SUBMITTED BY: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S COUNCIL FOR MARINE MAMMALS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-26

- TITLE:** SEEKING LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THE STATE OF ALASKA'S IMPOSITION OF CRITICAL HABITAT AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS ON ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION, NATIVE VILLAGE, AND ALASKA NATIVE ALLOTMENT PRIVATE PROPERTY
- WHEREAS:** Congress intended for Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) to be profitable in support of the economic development of Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska in 1972 created Critical Habitat Areas (CHAs) that now encompass ANC lands, lands surrounding Alaska Native Villages, and Alaska Native Allotments; and
- WHEREAS:** The CHAs in Bristol Bay encompass lands owned by several ANCs, as well as lands surrounding Alaska Native Villages, and Alaska Native Allotments; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) is currently proposing a management plan ("the Plan") to become State regulation governing the Bristol Bay CHA; and
- WHEREAS:** The Plan limits all use, lease, or other disposal of lands within the CHAs, and requires Special Area Permits and Coastal Project Questionnaires for all activities that may damage fish and wildlife and their habitat; and
- WHEREAS:** The Special Area Permits and Coastal Project Questionnaires are extremely burdensome to complete; and
- WHEREAS:** The affected ANCs, Native Villages, and Alaska Native Allotment owners would be required to employ costly mitigation techniques in order to use, lease, or dispose of their lands; and
- WHEREAS:** This Plan would completely deprive the affected ANCs of all economically beneficial use of their property, constituting a regulatory taking; and
- WHEREAS:** This management plan would affect Native Village use of federal funding for activities within the CHAs, including but not limited to: Community Development Quota (CDQ) funding and funds granted through the Indian Reservation Roads program; and
- WHEREAS:** This Plan would greatly affect those who own Alaska Native Allotments within the CHAs; and

WHEREAS: ADF&G has only recently invited affected ANCs to comment on the management plan and has not invited comments of affected Native Villages or Alaska Native Allotment Owners; and

WHEREAS: Affected ANCs, Native Villages, and Alaska Native Allotment Owners question the authority of the State of Alaska to regulate hitherto allowable uses by private property owners under the Plan; and

WHEREAS: Affected ANCs, Native Village, and Alaska Native Allotment Owners require additional time to thoroughly review the management plan and make informed comments on the management plan; and

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN shall pursue the following executive and legislative actions to:

- Seek legislation clarifying 1972 law so that the State of Alaska does not regulate the private property of Alaska Native Corporations, Native Villages, and Alaska Native Allotment owners; and
- Alternatively, seek legislation that revokes authority to create State agency uses on the private property of Alaska Native Corporations, Native Villages, and Alaska Native Allotment owners.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA PENINSULA CORPORATION, BECHAROF CORPORATION, PILOT POINT NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: TO FLOOR WITH NO RECOMMENDATION

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



EDUCATION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-27

TITLE: ALASKA TRIBES, REGIONAL CORPORATIONS, VILLAGE CORPORATIONS, MUNICIPALITIES, BOROUGHS AND TRIBAL COLLEGES PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA AND ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS: Tribes, regional corporations, village corporation, municipalities, and boroughs throughout Alaska encourage their members to continue their education throughout their lives so that they have the knowledge of our culture and tradition to pass on to our future generations, and the skills necessary to be self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS: Tribes, regional corporations, village corporation, municipalities, and boroughs in many regions of Alaska continue to support the development of Tribal Colleges and have established governing boards to assist them in the long-term development of Tribal Colleges for their respective regions; and

WHEREAS: Tribes, regional corporations, village corporation, municipalities, and boroughs and their Tribal College, governing boards support and depend upon the development of partnerships with the University of Alaska and other institutions of higher education, to develop curricula, certificates, and degrees that are relevant to Native Ways of Knowledge, and partnerships that will assist in the development of the Alaska's Tribal Colleges toward becoming accredited educational institutions; and

WHEREAS: The University of Alaska, Alaska Pacific University and other institutions of higher education often receive funding to develop courses, certificates, and degrees that focus on Native, Rural, and Tribal topics; and

WHEREAS: The development of such courses, certificates and degrees would greatly benefit from an active and more meaningful collaboration with the Tribes, and their Tribal College governing boards; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN support the Tribes of Alaska, regional corporations, village corporation, municipalities, and boroughs and their Tribal College governing boards in their efforts to partner more closely with the University of Alaska, Alaska Pacific University and other institutions of higher education that receive funding to develop courses, certificates and degrees focusing on Alaska Native, Rural, and Tribal topics, through active and meaningful consultation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., encourages the University of Alaska, Alaska Pacific University and other institutions of higher education to partner more closely with the Tribes, regional corporations, village corporation, municipalities, and boroughs of Alaska and their Tribal College governing boards, and actively support their effort to become accredited Tribal institutions of higher education.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-28

- TITLE:** ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- WHEREAS:** There are positive efforts occurring at a smaller scale to address Alaska Native educational issues and priorities, but there is currently no statewide Alaska Native stand-alone entity acting in an advisory capacity; and
- WHEREAS:** As Alaska Native people, we know it is OUR responsibility to ensure our youth receive the best education and that we have an entity that is designated to influence change, and that is in partnership with the existing entities, to lead to our ownership of our children's education; and
- WHEREAS:** The Native community has become self-directing in health, housing, tribal governance, and corporate operations, but education has always been someone else's responsibility; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native students continue to have significantly high drop out rates, and more than a third of Alaska Native fourth and eighth-graders in the United States score below the *Basic* level in math and reading, and their progress since 2007 is largely stalled, according to the National Indian Education Study; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 90% of rural students are Alaska Native and yet each year an estimated 80% of teachers hired in Alaska are from the lower 48 states (Institute of Social and Economic Research); and
- WHEREAS:** The average teacher in rural Alaska remains in the community for 2 years which statistics show has a direct correlation to low student achievement (the Institute of Social and Economic Research states that turnover in Alaska's rural school districts is higher than almost everywhere else in the United States); and
- WHEREAS:** Our Alaska Native communities have unique cultural and linguistic differences from that of the western education system, which at this point and time, is not being incorporated or addressed adequately to meet the needs of our Alaska Native students in the education system; and
- WHEREAS:** Past Alaska Native education advisory committees have been dissolved when new state education commissioners are appointed upon election of a new Governor, which has led to a loss of momentum and continuity on progress made for Alaska Native education; and

WHEREAS: That responsibilities of this committee can include, but is not limited to, making recommendations on: education policy change, language and cultural inclusion efforts in education, and increasing the amount of Alaska Native curriculum materials available and other publications focused on Alaska Native education; and

WHEREAS: That this committee shall be comprised of representatives from each of the respective ANCSA regions, including Tribes, rural village representation and regional non-profits; with the nominations for the committee coming from the Native community; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of The Alaska Federation of Natives Inc recommend to the governor to create a standing Alaska Native Education Committee who works in partnership with Alaska commissioner of education the rural education advisor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory committee will report the state of Alaska Native Education to the AFN delegation each year and to the governor; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this committee, in partnership with AFN, work with the State Department of Education and Early Development on establishing a permanent Alaska Native co-commissioner of education.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE AND RURAL EDUCATION CAUCAS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-29

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND THE ALASKA NATIVE SERVICES PROVIDED FOR STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL THROUGH ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS PROGRAMS

WHEREAS: Efforts to reform the existing educational system in Alaska are not working, and graduation rates for Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/AI) students are not improving; and

WHEREAS: During the 2006-07 school year, AN/AI students had the lowest graduation rate of all No Child Left Behind disaggregated subcategories at 42.72%.

- In 2007-08, AN/AI students' graduation rates dropped to 33.26%—a decrease of more than 22%
- In 2008-09, the graduation rate increased again to 48%, while the overall graduation rate for the Anchorage School District reached 70%
- In-migrating students become lost in schools that are often larger than their entire home village
- Academic success is hampered by a high level of transiency, homelessness and family instability among Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS: Nationally, high school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested in their lifetime; a one-year increase in average education levels would reduce arrest rates by 11%; 75% of America's state prison inmates are high school dropouts; a 1% increase in high school graduation rates would save approximately \$1.4 billion in incarceration costs alone; and

WHEREAS: Innovative new programs are needed that attend to the cultural and educational issues that are specific to Alaska Native families; and

WHEREAS: Providing stability for Alaska Native students who may be couch surfing, in and out of foster care, or without adequate family support is essential to their academic success; and

WHEREAS: Several regions have developed different types of residential and vocational opportunities designed specifically to address Alaska Native students' needs; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has a responsibility to ensure adequate education to all Alaska students, based on the State Constitution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2010 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN requests that the State Department of Education partner with innovative Alaska Native programs occurring in the regions to fund programs that specifically address Alaska Native student's needs and to close the persistent achievement gap for Alaska Native students, allowing our young people – our future generation of adults – to fulfill their unlimited potential.

SUBMITTED BY: COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-30

TITLE: SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO RESTORE BIA EDUCATION FUNDING TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and

WHEREAS: AFN seeks to promote and increase the quality of Alaska Native education available in all communities in the region; and

WHEREAS: AFN recognizes the importance of Native culture and heritage in effective education; and

WHEREAS: The tribes and tribal organizations are not eligible for education funding from the Bureau of Indian Education (BIA) to support Alaska Native education; and

WHEREAS: Funding from the BIA needs to be restored in order to return the control of the operation and management of schools to the Alaska Native villages in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Villages in Alaska previously received education funding from BIA; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., urges AFN to seek funding and other supportive resources from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to return Bureau of Indian education funding directly to the villages in Alaska at the discretion of the Tribes and identify the recipient school district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that delegates to the 2010 convention urges AFN to lobby Alaska's Senators and Representatives in Congress to direct BIA to restore the full \$100 million funding given to the State of Alaska on behalf of Alaska Native children -- school children on Native lands to provide education each year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the State of Alaska restores the \$50 million it took from the \$100 million each year retroactively since it began receiving the \$100 million funding from BIA.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ECONOMICS

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-31

TITLE: TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OF RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have been residents of rural Alaska communities for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: Residents of rural Alaska depend upon water transportation to sustain their way of life; and

WHEREAS: The rising cost of fuel and other economic factors have caused many difficulties for supporting transportation systems in rural Alaska, including many who do not succeed and close their doors or discontinue service to the rural communities; and

WHEREAS: A 2009 McDowell Group study commissioned by the state reported that the cost of living is much higher in rural Alaska than in Anchorage, including 61% higher in Kotzebue; and

WHEREAS: Smaller rural communities off the State road system depend on water transportation for access to services, merchants, and the necessary commodities to sustain life; and

WHEREAS: Rural communities also rely upon water transportation as a reliable means for access to health care and in some cases, emergency transportation; and

WHEREAS: Weather is often a factor of living in small, rural communities, where air travel is not possible and the only means of transportation is by water; and

WHEREAS: Air transportation is not a viable option for bulk freight and other necessities of living in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Some communities are also not accessible by water as rivers are getting shallower each year; and

WHEREAS: Road transportation to many rural communities is either limited or non-existent and would be a viable option, provided a rural road transportation infrastructure is developed to link the rural communities to the existing, already limited or non-existent transportation system; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN endorses planning and implementation of plans to provide affordable water, air and road transportation, freight barging systems, and other alternative means of transportation and related infrastructure to support each community throughout Alaska impacted and suffering from the rising cost of fuel and other factors causing rural transportation to become economically unsustainable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2010 AFN Delegates endorse an expanded water and road transportation system to provide rural Alaska the transportation and access needs to support life, well-being and population sustainability for our rural communities to halt out migration; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that government funding for affordable water transportation and freight barging system, currently not served by the state marine highway transportation system, be increased to provide equivalent levels of transportation services to all communities in the state not currently accessible by surface or water, and the funding also be dedicated for identifying alternative transportation means to these communities.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG REGION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-32

TITLE: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE DENALI COMMISSION
(COMMISSION)

WHEREAS: Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and

WHEREAS: The Denali Commission (Commission) was authorized by Congress in 1998 under the leadership of the late U. S. Senator Ted Stevens and this authorizing legislation has expired; and

WHEREAS: The Commission is a unique, federal/state/Alaska Native partnership that addresses the needs of Alaska's distressed communities and is an important agency for both Alaska Natives and for Alaska's rural communities; and

WHEREAS: The Commission's first task was to upgrade Tank Farms in rural Alaska to meet U.S. Coast Guard Standards; and

WHEREAS: too many aging and obsolete tank farms have not been upgraded or replaced, and many Alaskan Villages could not survive without an adequate supply of heating fuel and would be devastated if their heating fuel should be lost due to aging tank ruptures or leaks, and the resulting clean up costs; and

WHEREAS: Not only does the Commission endeavor to enhance the economies of the Alaska Native villages, but it is also tasked as one of the entities responsible for building and ensuring the adequate maintenance of Alaska's basic infrastructure in the areas of healthcare, transportation, teacher housing as examples in rural Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: The Commission's programs, including its various infrastructure programs and its planning and community support activities for economic development, job training, education, and capacity building must receive funding in order to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support to economically distressed communities throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Commission remains active only because of Continuing Resolutions by Congress; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., urges Alaska's Congressional Delegation to introduce legislation that will reauthorize the Denali Commission in Congress as soon as possible; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that AFN respectfully request the Alaska Delegation to seek increased funding for the Denali Commission by 20% over the 2008 funding levels.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED



OTHER

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-33

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BALLOT PROPOSITION 1, EXPANSION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE
- WHEREAS:** The boundaries of the Alaska’s house and senate districts will be redrawn in 2011 after the 2010 federal census data is available; and
- WHEREAS:** Because of population shifts rural Alaska has consistently lost seats in each redistricting, a trend which is expected to continue; and
- WHEREAS:** The current districting plan creates extremely anomalous districts such as House District 6 which loops completely around the Railbelt extending from the Aniak area to the Canadian border south of Tok; Senate District C likewise combines Yakutat in Southeast Alaska with communities on the Kuskokwim and lower Yukon; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska constitution requires that house districts “be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly a practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area;” and
- WHEREAS:** It has become impossible to meet the state constitutional standards for house districts with only 40 house districts, given Alaska’s vast geographic expanse and the concentration of the population in urban areas; and
- WHEREAS:** In order to address this problem, the Alaska State Legislature has placed a constitutional amendment, Ballot Proposition 1, on the November 2010 general election ballot which would increase the size of the legislature by adding four (4) additional house districts and two (2) additional senate districts, for a total of 44 house districts and 22 senate districts; and
- WHEREAS:** If enacted, the expansion of the legislature will improve representation in state government by making it easier to create compact house districts in reasonably socio-economically integrated areas, and avoid the need to combine vast areas and very dissimilar populations in the same district; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN strongly supports passage of Ballot Proposition 1, and the expansion of the Alaska State Legislature.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2010 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 10-34

TITLE: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE COMMISSION BY THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

WHEREAS: Alaska Native languages are inherently valuable and constitute vital sources of identity for Alaska Native peoples, reinforcing the cultural, geographic, and ethnic ties that make us unique; and

WHEREAS: Maintaining and nurturing our cultural identities in meaningful ways is paramount to the future survival of Alaska Native peoples as distinct societies within Alaska and the United States; and

WHEREAS: All Alaska Native languages are endangered or severely endangered and the tragic loss of Eyak in 2008 underscores the vulnerability of Alaska Native languages; and

WHEREAS: The continued erosion or disappearance of cultural identities has social and political implications for Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS: Language revitalization is a social justice issue involving processes of psychological and spiritual healing, as well as processes of language re-acquisition, reclamation, and transmission; and

WHEREAS: Sustained statewide political advocacy, research and corpus on behalf of Alaska Native language revitalization efforts, financial resources, and greater cooperation between Alaska Native language stakeholders is urgently needed to initiate or maintain language revitalization initiatives in Alaska Native communities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2010 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN seek state and federal funding to establish the Alaska Native Languages Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this commission be designed to: politically advocate on behalf of Alaska Native languages, facilitate and promote greater cooperation between Alaska Native language stakeholders, conduct and share research on financial resources for Alaska Native language revitalization efforts, conduct and share research and corpus concerning

Alaska Native and other indigenous languages, secure the necessary funding to sustain the Commission and potentially share financial resources with Alaska Native revitalization efforts, and sustain and appropriately staff the Commission so that it may successfully conduct its important and vital work.

SUBMITTED BY: 2010 STATEWIDE ELDERS AND YOUTH COUNCIL

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED

