



## 2014 AFN Convention Resolutions

| <b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>   |   |                          |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>NUMBER</b>              | <b>TITLE</b>  | <b>CONVENTION ACTION</b> |
| <b>SPECIAL RECOGNITION</b> |   |                          |
| 14-48                      | SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE KATIE JOHN LITIGATION   | <b>ADOPT</b>             |
| <b>SUBSISTENCE</b>         |   |                          |
| 14-1                       | A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROTECTIONS, INCLUDING A COMMUNITY FISHING ASSOCIATION, FOR GULF OF ALASKA FISHERY DEPENDANT COASTAL COMMUNITIES FROM THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AS THE COUNCIL DEVELOPES THE GULF OF ALASKA TRAWL GROUND FISH BYCATCH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM) | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |
| 14-2                       | CALL FOR ALASKA NATIVE SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND GATHERING RIGHTS AND RESOURCES   | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |
| 14-3                       | REDUCTION OF CHINOOK AND CHUM SALMON BYCATCH IN THE BERING SEA POLLOCK FISHERY  | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |
| 14-4                       | RESOLUTION FOR STRONGER AND MORE LASTING PROTECTION OF TRIBAL SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES IN THE NORTHERN BERING SEA AND TO ENSURE TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION FOR DECISIONS IMPACTING THESE RESOURCES  | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |
| 14-5                       | CALL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) TO MANAGE THE LANDS SELECTED BY THE STATE OF ALASKA AND ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |
| 14-6                       | TO SUPPORT THE SWIFT ENACTMENT OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PROCEDURES FOR THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD TO DETERMINE RURAL/TRIBAL COMMUNITY STATUS UNDER TITLE VIII OF THE ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT   | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |
| 14-41                      | SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS PRIORITY OVER COMMERCIAL AND SPORTS USES FOR FISH AND GAME   | <b>ADOPT</b>             |
| 14-42                      | PROTECTION OF ALASKA NATIVE TRADITIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES   | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |
| 14-43                      | RE-ESTABLISH INDIGENOUS SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS IN ALASKA  | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |

|       | <b>HEALTH, SAFETY &amp; WELFARE</b>  |                  |
|-------|--|------------------|
| 14-7  | SUPPORTING A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF ALASKA ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES TO BETTER SERVE RURAL ELDERS  | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-8  | SUPPORTING WELLNESS IN PUBLIC AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE DRUG-FREE LIFESTYLES   | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-9  | UNIVERSAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCREENING  | ADOPT            |
| 14-10 | SUPPORT FOR INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS   | ADOPT            |
| 14-11 | SUPPORT FOR MEDICARE-LIKE RATE CAP FOR NON-HOSPITAL SERVICES PURCHASED BY INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE AND TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS   | ADOPT            |
| 14-12 | SUPPORT FOR MAKING INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS A PERMANENT MANDATORY APPROPRIATION  | ADOPT            |
| 14-13 | SUPPORT FOR FULL FUNDING OF VILLAGE BUILT CLINICS  | ADOPT            |
| 14-14 | REQUESTING MORE RESTRICTIVE LAWS REGULATING THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF TRAMADOL AND OTHER ADDITIVE SUBSTANCES TO INDIVIDUALS IN ALASKA AND ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES | ADOPT            |
| 14-15 | A RESOLUTION OPPOSING BALLOT MEASURE 2 LEGALIZING MARIJUANA  | ADOPT            |
| 14-16 | A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES  | ADOPT            |
| 14-17 | REAFFIRM SUPPORT TO URGE CONGRESS TO ENACT THE ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT   | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-45 | INCREASING THE SAFETY OF ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN   | ADOPT AS AMENDED |

|       | <b>EDUCATION</b>  |                  |
|-------|---|------------------|
| 14-18 | REQUEST FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES, VILLAGES, AND REGIONAL NON PROFITS TO COORDINATE, COLLABORATE AND WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE RURAL EDUCATION AND KEEP RURAL SCHOOL OPEN | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-19 | TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION EQUITY ACT AND UTILIZE ALL LEGISLATIVE TOOLS TO ENSURE THAT FUNDING IS ADMINISTERED BY ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS                 | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-20 | SUPPORTING EXPANDED STATEWIDE FUNDING FOR EARLY LEARNING  | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-21 | SCHOOL SUPPORT RESOLUTION   | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-44 | INITIATIVES TO REVERSE THE STATUS OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AS ENDANGERED LANGUAGES  | ADOPT AS AMENDED |

|       | <b>LAND &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES</b>   |                  |
|-------|---|------------------|
| 14-22 | PROTECT TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS IN THE ALASKA/BRITISH COLUMBIA REGION BY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES TO IMPLEMENT THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION (IJC) INVOLVEMENT | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-23 | INCLUSION OF ALASKA NATIVES IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT   | ADOPT AS AMENDED |

|       | <b>ECONOMIC</b>  |                  |
|-------|--|------------------|
| 14-24 | ESTABLISHING FUNDING FOR ALL ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND FUNDING PRIORITY FOR RURAL ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES   | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-25 | A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE OF ALASKA TO REQUIRE NO LESS THAN 75% OF NON-SKILLED LABOR AND 25% OF SKILLED POSITIONS ON FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDED PUBLIC WORKS AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN RURAL ALASKA TO BE LOCAL COMMUNITY HIRE                             | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-26 | SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC LAW 102-477 PROGRAMMING BY UPHOLDING TRIBAL MANAGEMENT OVER FEDERAL AGENCY FUNDS IN AN INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM AND URGE TRANSFER OF THE 477 PROGRAM FROM DOI INDIAN ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO INDIAN SERVICES AT BIA | ADOPT            |
| 14-27 | SUPPORT FULL FUNDING AND REAUTHORIZATION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA)   | ADOPT            |
| 14-28 | SUPPORTING THE RE-INSTAEMENT OF FUNDING BY THE STATE OF ALASKA FOR THE VILLAGE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM (VEEP)  | ADOPT            |
| 14-29 | A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO CONTINUE THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION PROGRAM AND URGE THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY   | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-39 | SUPPORTING THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL   | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-40 | A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND STATE OF ALASKA TO HONOR NATIVE AMERICAN FEDERALLY NEGOTIATED INDIRECT RATE COST AGREEMENTS   | ADOPT            |
| 14-49 | PROMOTING TOURISM THAT PROVIDES BENEFITS TO ALASKA NATIVE ARTISTS, BUSINESSES, CORPORATIONS, TRIBES AND THE STATE OF ALASKA  | ADOPT            |

| <b>ANSCA/TRIBAL</b> |  |                  |
|---------------------|--|------------------|
| 14-30               | A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA STATE GOVERNMENT TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR ALASKA'S TRIBES TO WAIVE THEIR SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY IN ORDER TO ACCESS STATE FUNDING          | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-31               | REQUESTING THAT ALL STATE OF ALASKA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, RECOGNIZE TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARD ISSUED BY A FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBE AS A VALID PRIMARY FORM OF IDENTIFICATION | ADOPT AS AMENDED |

| <b>OTHER</b> |  |                  |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| 14-32        | A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION                                    | ADOPT            |
| 14-33        | SUPPORTING PUBLIC STREET SIGNS IN ENGLISH AND OUR ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES                        | ADOPT            |
| 14-34        | SUPPORTING THE USE AND SPEAKING OF NATIVE LANGUAGES DURING THE AFN ANNUAL CONVENTION             | ADOPT            |
| 14-35        | SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERIES WITHIN THE STATE OF ALASKA     | ADOPT            |
| 14-37        | A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALASKA'S CURRENT SYSTEM OF SELECTION AND RETENTION OF STATE COURT JUDGES | ADOPT            |
| 14-38        | RESOLUTION SUPPORTING JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM IN THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION                    | ADOPT AS AMENDED |

| <b>ENDORSEMENTS</b> |  |       |
|---------------------|--|-------|
| 14-46               | RESOLUTION ENDORSING MARK BEGICH AS CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR ALASKA           | ADOPT |
| 14-47               | RESOLUTION ENDORSING BILL WALKER AND BYRON MALLOTT FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA | ADOPT |

| <b>ELDERS &amp; YOUTH</b> |  |                  |
|---------------------------|--|------------------|
| 14-50                     | ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS                             | ADOPT AS AMENDED |
| 14-51                     | COMMERCIALIZED MARIJUANA HARMFUL TO YOUTH & NATIVE COMMUNITY | ADOPT            |
| 14-52                     | HELPING DEMYSTIFY AND CLARIFY ELDER CARE SERVICES            | ADOPT            |
| 14-53                     | RESTORE NATIVE NAMES TO NATIVE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES           | ADOPT            |

## Special Recognition



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 48

TITLE: SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE KATIE JOHN LITIGATION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: On March 31, 2014 the Supreme Court of the United States rejected the State of Alaska's petition in the legal case *State of Alaska v Sally Jewell, Secretary of the United States Department of Interior et al*, widely known as one of the Katie John Cases, ending nineteen (19) years of litigation on this matter; and

WHEREAS: Katie John, Doris Charles, Gene Henry and their families brought this litigation forward to protect the subsistence hunting and fishing rights of the Alaska Natives and Ahtna people; and

WHEREAS: The following lawyers were involved on the Katie John Cases: Lawrence Aschenbrenner, Native American Rights Fund; William Caldwell; John Sky Starkey; Robert T. Anderson, University of Washington School of Law; Carol H. Daniel, AFN Counsel; Riyaz A. Kanji and Phillip H. Tinker of Kanji & Katzen, Ann Arbor, MI; Heather Kendall-Miller, Native American Rights Fund; and Carter G. Phillips and Erica Myers of Sidley Austin, Washington, D.C.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN hereby bestows a special recognition of these people and organizations for their involvement and support during the duration of the Katie John Cases and for their enduring contributions to the protection of Alaska Natives' cultural and physical survival, and subsistence way of life.

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

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD  
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED



## Subsistence



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 1

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROTECTIONS, INCLUDING A COMMUNITY FISHING ASSOCIATION, FOR GULF OF ALASKA FISHERY DEPENDANT COASTAL COMMUNITIES FROM THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AS THE COUNCIL DEVELOPES THE GULF OF ALASKA TRAWL GROUND FISH BYCATCH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Healthy fisheries are the backbone of the economies and cultures for Gulf of Alaska fishery dependent rural and tribal communities, including fishermen, processors, support businesses and community residents; and
- WHEREAS:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is currently considering a bycatch management program for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish trawl fisheries which includes a catch share or "rationalization" program; and
- WHEREAS:** Catch share programs can provide economic and conservation benefits, but past catch share programs have also resulted in significant harm to Gulf of Alaska fishery dependent rural communities and tribal communities in terms of loss of access to locally available fish stocks, vessel consolidation and loss of crew jobs; and
- WHEREAS:** A Gulf of Alaska trawl bycatch reduction/catch share program can achieve bycatch reduction while maintaining Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities' economies and fisheries access if designed correctly; and
- WHEREAS:** Port specific delivery requirements may inhibit development of local processing capacity in smaller fishery dependent Gulf of Alaska coastal communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Direct allocations of fishing quota to Gulf of Alaska fishery dependent communities can help to ensure coastal fishing communities' economies remain intact under a catch share program by anchoring quota in the community, supporting subsequent generations of fishermen, and providing access opportunities to community residents; and
- WHEREAS:** Community Fishing Associations (CFAs) are currently being considered by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for inclusion in the Gulf of Alaska Trawl Ground fish Bycatch Reduction/Rationalization program and initial recipients of ground fish quota.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, as part of their Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Reduction/Rationalization Program, create a Community Fishing Association to protect Gulf of Alaska fishery dependent communities, provide resource access, protect crew and ensure new entry into the fishery and that the NPFMC initially allocate not less than 15% of the Gulf of Alaska Trawl Groundfish to the CFA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council recognize the Government-to-Government authority of Gulf of Alaska fishery dependent tribes and ensure that tribes are included in Community Fishing Associations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council NOT create port specific delivery requirements as part of its Gulf of Alaska Trawl Groundfish Bycatch Reduction\Rationalization program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN directs the regulatory agency to study and explore the broad effects of rationalization from one area in the neighboring regions; and

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

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| SUBMITTED BY:      | KONIAG-KANA ROUNDTABLE |
| COMMITTEE ACTION:  | DO PASS                |
| CONVENTION ACTION: | ADOPT AS AMENDED       |





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 2

- TITLE:** CALL FOR ALASKA NATIVE SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND GATHERING RIGHTS AND RESOURCES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native hunting and fishing practices, including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game, and other resources and the ceremonies which accompany these practices are essential to the social, cultural, spiritual, and economic wellbeing and survival of the Alaska Native people; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska's current federal-state dual management system fails to adequately manage resources to meet the traditional, customary, and spiritual needs and practices of Alaska Native peoples and does not adequately provide for Alaska Native participation; and
- WHEREAS:** The Secretary of the Interior recognized this failure in the Department's 2010 Review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program and in the published Findings and Recommended Actions recognized the critical and necessary need for Alaska Natives to be more active in the administration, decision-making, and implementation of the Program; and
- WHEREAS:** The Department of the Interior and the Alaska Director of USFWS has failed to implement the Recommended Actions within the Federal Subsistence Management Program, including but not limited to increased ANILCA Section 809 Agreements with local Tribes to implement the program; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska does not recognize rural preference as established in ANILCA, nor does it have a mechanism to adequately ensure Alaska Native role in the management of traditional resources, yet it is provided funding by the Federal Subsistence Management to implement rural preference programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Through a series of broken promises by the State and Federal governments, Alaska Natives have been denied the right to manage hunting, fishing and gathering even on the lands conveyed through the settlement of their aboriginal land claims; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Natives and their Tribal Governments, Tribal Consortiums, Non-Profits, and Corporations have the expertise, education, and capabilities to adequately manage their traditional lands and resources today and into the future as they have served as stewards for thousands of years maintaining healthy and productive ecosystems.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that Alaska Natives have full and equal co-management role along with the State of Alaska and the Federal Government to provide Alaska Natives with a full and equal co-management role of their traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering resources, including the primary authority to manage these resources on their customary and traditional lands and waters conveyed through ANCSA or native allotments or otherwise held for or owned by Alaska Native Organizations; and

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

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| SUBMITTED BY:      | TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE & ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL<br>PRESIDENTS |
| COMMITTEE ACTION:  | DO PASS   |
| CONVENTION ACTION: | ADOPT AS AMENDED  |





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 3

- TITLE:** REDUCTION OF CHINOOK AND CHUM SALMON BYCATCH IN THE BERING SEA POLLOCK FISHERY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Chinook salmon are the cornerstone for nutritional, cultural, spiritual, and economic survival of the Native Villages located on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River Drainages; and
- WHEREAS:** Dramatically low Chinook runs and harvests in recent years have caused severe impacts to the people in our villages and the Chinook stocks upon which they depend; and
- WHEREAS:** For the first time in history, directed subsistence fisheries for Chinook salmon on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers were completely closed in 2014; and
- WHEREAS:** Commercial Chinook salmon fisheries have been shut down for years on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, and summer chum salmon fisheries have been restricted to protect Chinook salmon; and
- WHEREAS:** Even State determined minimum amounts necessary for subsistence have not been met on the Yukon River since 2008 and on the Kuskokwim since 2011- 2012; and
- WHEREAS:** Chinook salmon federal commercial fishery disasters were declared for the Yukon River for 1997, 1998, 2000-2002 and 2009-2012 and for the Kuskokwim for 2011-2012; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite these restrictions the Yukon River Chinook salmon Canadian escapement goal has only been met in 3 out of the last 9 years and mean run size of Canadian-origin Chinook salmon (which comprise approximately 50% of the run) declined 45% for the period 1998-2010 compared to 1982-1997; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bering Sea pollock fishery catches these same salmon as bycatch; catching over 122,000 wild Chinook salmon in 2007 and over 700,000 chum salmon in 2005; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the best available scientific information, as much as 73% of the Chinook salmon taken as bycatch are of Western Alaska origin; and
- WHEREAS:** The management measures adopted in April 2009 by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council) provide for a 47,591 bycatch level in most years, with the potential for the fleet to reach 60,000 in two out of every seven years without consequence, despite

continuous subsistence closures on the Yukon river and more recent subsistence closures on the Kuskokwim river; and

WHEREAS: Although Chinook bycatch has been below the cap in recent years, bycatch has averaged around 14,500 over the last several years demonstrating that the Bering Sea Pollock fleet can take their quota without approaching the 60,000 bycatch level they are allowed under the Council's regulations; and

WHEREAS: Under the current management regime there is nothing to prevent the Pollock fleet from catching as many as 60,000 Chinook salmon as bycatch next year even if subsistence fisheries remain closed or border passage obligations are not met and the Chinook stocks continue to decline; and

WHEREAS: In these times of severe Chinook salmon declines, all sources of mortality must be reduced and all harvesters of salmon must bear equitably in conserving Chinook salmon.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council act immediately to reduce the overall hard cap for Chinook bycatch from 60,000 to 20,000 and the performance standard from 47,591 to 14,500; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council use its emergency regulatory authority to implement these changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests that the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands pollock industry act immediately to set a voluntary limit on Chinook salmon bycatch for 2015 not to exceed 14,500 Chinook and to take every action possible to reduce bycatch towards zero; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE & ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE  
COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 4

- TITLE:** RESOLUTION FOR STRONGER AND MORE LASTING PROTECTION OF TRIBAL SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES IN THE NORTHERN BERING SEA AND TO ENSURE TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION FOR DECISIONS IMPACTING THESE RESOURCES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The ancestral teachings of Alaska Natives are based on respect for what the ocean provides. Respectful actions are rewarded by hunting success and disrespectful actions have negative consequences. Alaska Natives are taught never to waste what the Creator has given, to share food with the community and to listen to Elders because they acquired wisdom over a long life, through sharp observation and through historical knowledge passed down by ancestors; and
- WHEREAS:** While technology has changed, traditional values, such as hunting, fishing and gathering, remain the foundation of Alaska Native culture. Respect for the natural world and caring for natural resources are necessary for our people to continue thriving off the ocean and land, and for providing these resources and opportunities to our children as their inheritance; and
- WHEREAS:** Climate change threatens our way of life, including the potential expansion of trawling in the northern waters, which would have a negative impact on the waters; and
- WHEREAS:** Federal fishery managers recognized the importance of the Northern Bering Sea and the threat by trawling by establishing a boundary to prevent large-scale fishing fleets from moving into northern waters where they have not operated before and where uses of marine resources are essential to the nutritional, economic, spiritual, and cultural way of life of the Native Villages that have used this area and its resources since time before memory; and
- WHEREAS:** Federal fishery managers specified that before trawling would be considered in the future, they would first study and consider effects on marine mammals, seabirds, crab, endangered or threatened species and the opportunity to continue the subsistence way of life; and
- WHEREAS:** Federally recognized tribes and Indigenous People have an extremely limited role or voice in the current federal management regime with authority over our traditional territory and resources, despite the national and international declarations and policies that recognize the injustice and inequity in excluding tribes in such decision-making; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that:

1. The federal government should strengthen existing policy that prevents the future expansion of trawl fisheries into the Northern Bering Sea to protect marine resources and habitat that provide for the continuation of the nutritional, economic and cultural way of life of the Native Villages and promote the self-determination of our People in the future management of these resources and habitat; and
2. The federal government should engage in formal government-to-government consultation that will result in the implementation of stronger and lasting protection for the Northern Bering Sea and recognition of the right to tribal self-determination in protecting the Northern Bering Sea.
3. That the Alaska Federation of Natives will continue to work for the establishment of a tribal seat on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

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

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





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 5

**TITLE:** CALL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) TO MANAGE THE LANDS SELECTED BY THE STATE OF ALASKA AND ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** Upon the passage of statehood, the State of Alaska was granted authorization to select approximately 106 million acres of land for state ownership; and

**WHEREAS:** As part of the selection process, the State was permitted to “over select” approximately 20% more acreage; and

**WHEREAS:** Although the “over-selected” land is still owned by the federal government, those lands are not regulated by federal hunting and fishing regulations but instead are regulated by state regulations; and

**WHEREAS:** As a result of being governed by state regulations, federal subsistence rules and regulations are not being applied to these lands.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates OF the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request the Secretary of Interior and Agriculture to fulfill their statutory responsibilities under Title VIII of ANILCA and manage all federal lands, including State and Alaska Native Corporations over selection whose title is still in federal ownership; and

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** AHTNA INC.  
**COMMITTEE ACTION:** DO PASS  
**CONVENTION ACTION:** ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 6

- TITLE:** TO SUPPORT THE SWIFT ENACTMENT OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PROCEDURES FOR THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD TO DETERMINE RURAL/TRIBAL COMMUNITY STATUS UNDER TITLE VIII OF THE ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by Alaska Natives on the public lands is essential to Native physical, economic, traditional, spiritual, and cultural existence; and
- WHEREAS:** The continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses of resources on public and other lands in Alaska is threatened by the increasing population of Alaska, with resultant pressure on subsistence resources, by sudden decline in the populations of some wildlife species which are crucial subsistence resources, by increased accessibility of remote areas containing subsistence resources, and by taking of fish and wildlife in a manner inconsistent with recognized principles of fish and wildlife management; and
- WHEREAS:** The subsistence resources harvest priority guaranteed by the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) only extends to communities whose residents are deemed “rural” by Federal Subsistence Board regulations published at 36 C.F.R. § 242.15; and
- WHEREAS:** The Federal Subsistence Board’s determination of which communities are “rural” has proved problematic, time consuming, and have resulted in wrongful, formulistic determinations ignoring key attributes of individual communities, such as Saxman, Alaska, and other communities along the road system, which maintain customary and traditional harvests of subsistence resources; and
- WHEREAS:** On April 15, 2014, the Federal Subsistence Board acknowledged the deficiencies in the current rural determination process and voted unanimously to recommend to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to implement an administrative rulemaking to amend 36 C.F.R. § 242.15 in a manner to reflect the realities of rural communities in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The Federal Subsistence Board’s proposed amendments would restore Alaska Native communities to their rightful rural/tribal community status and/or community within a community regardless of other populations; and

WHEREAS: The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior are, as of the date of this resolution, yet to initiate the rulemaking proposed by the Federal Subsistence Board; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell draft and publish, with all deliberate speed, the regulation recommended by the Federal Subsistence Board governing the processes by which Alaska communities classified as “rural” for purposes of ANILCA’s subsistence priority; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 -41

- TITLE: SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS PRIORITY OVER COMMERCIAL AND SPORTS USES FOR FISH AND GAME
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: Subsistence use of resources, such as fish and game, are vital to feed, clothe, supply basic subsistence needs as food security, and provide for economic security; and
- WHEREAS: Subsistence resources have been bartered for others goods as a basis of trade, economy and assistance; and
- WHEREAS: Many people and families in Alaska continue to use subsistence resources in this manner; and
- WHEREAS: The best and proper use of subsistence resources is to prioritize feeding Alaska residents first; and
- WHEREAS: Only once a stock of fish and game is at a sufficient level to accommodate the subsistence needs of Alaska's people, should that stock be made available to commercial or sport uses.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the State of Alaska shall prioritize subsistence rights over commercial and sports uses of Alaska's fish and game; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.
- SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS  
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 42

TITLE: PROTECTION OF ALASKA NATIVE TRADITIONAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Native hunting and fishing practices, including the harvesting and sharing of fish, game, and other resources and the ceremonies which accompany these practices are essential to the social, cultural, spiritual, and economic wellbeing and survival of the Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have served as the stewards of their traditional lands and resources maintaining healthy and productive ecosystems for thousands of years, and maintain the belief that human beings are an integral part of naturally functioning ecosystems, not separate from them; and

WHEREAS: The National Park Service (NPS) has a proposed rule that “activities or management actions involving predator reduction efforts with the intent or potential to alter or manipulate natural ecosystems or processes (including natural predator/prey dynamics, distributions, densities, age-class distributions, populations, genetics, or behavior of a species) are not allowed on NPS lands in Alaska. Under the proposed rule, the regional director would compile a list updated at least annually of activities prohibited by this section of the proposed rule”; and

WHEREAS: This proposed rule is overreaching, vague, and indiscriminant and would further criminalize Alaska Native traditional resource management practices within our traditional use areas now managed by the NPS; and

WHEREAS: Other federal agencies such as US Fish and Wildlife Services also apply various rules that interfere with traditional resource management practices that reduce subsistence access.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the National Park Service should not adopt the proposed rule, which would indiscriminately disallow traditional wildlife population management practices, and that government-to-government consultation is held directly with effective area Tribal Governments whose traditional use areas are now managed by the NPS and USFWS to ensure their needs are met in the management of these lands; and

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

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| SUBMITTED BY:      | TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE |
| BOARD ACTION:      | DO PASS                  |
| CONVENTION ACTION: | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 43

- TITLE:** RE-ESTABLISH STATE AND FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS IN ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Subsistence rights are key to the way of life and vital to both food and economic security of our tribes as indigenous peoples of the United States and Alaska Native people across the state; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native people have since the beginning always exercised subsistence rights to feed, clothe, supply their basic subsistence needs such as food security, for the continuation of our customary, traditional, and spiritual activities, and provide for economic security; and
- WHEREAS:** Subsistence rights provided trade with Russians, Americans and many other nationalities for goods and/or money as a basis of economy and assistance that continues into today; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native people and families in Alaska continue to respectfully exercise subsistence rights which needs to be recognized and validated; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native people have exercised self-determination by governing themselves through tribal governments and the operation of ANCSA Corporations as tools for managing their communities, the development of their community and statewide economies, and a means for responsibly developing natural resources and protecting subsistence resources; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA needs to be amended as the ANICLA changes did not adequately address subsistence rights including hunting and fishing; and
- WHEREAS:** The termination of aboriginal or indigenous hunting and fishing rights in ANCSA is contestable and against the United Nations human rights of indigenous peoples, and treats indigenous peoples in the State of Alaska differently than the rest of tribal America; and
- WHEREAS:** ANCSA was created during the era of federal termination policy of American and Alaska tribes with a modified corporation model with goals of assimilation that is no longer the official US policy which is now self-determination; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska’s non-compliance with federal law has only created more issues and points to the need to re-establish indigenous subsistence rights as the ultimate solution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that recognition of aboriginal or indigenous hunting and fishing rights be restored by the US government in federal law which were wrongly taken; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that self-determination, including subsistence rights, be honored by all Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Federal definitions that weaken Alaska Native indigenous rights must be modified to recognize the indigenous rights of Alaska Natives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current definition of “indigenous inhabitants” in the Migratory Bird Treaty protocol amendments of 1996 be restored to its original intent of Alaska’s Eskimo, Indians, and Aleuts as described in the Migratory Bird Treaty with Japan; and

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

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| SUBMITTED BY:      | ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS |
| BOARD ACTION:      | DO PASS                                   |
| CONVENTION ACTION: | ADOPT AS AMENDED                          |



## Health, Safety & Welfare



.Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 7

TITLE: SUPPORTING A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF ALASKA ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES TO BETTER SERVE RURAL ELDERS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska Adult Protective Services (APS) Office currently receives reports to staff located in Anchorage or Fairbanks, and the reports and situations are reviewed by telephone with Elders or assigned to overburdened law enforcement personnel such as Troopers for investigation; and

WHEREAS: Faster response time on APS reports is needed to ensure safety of our Elders and vulnerable adults particularly in rural areas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the State of Alaska conduct a review of the APS services to better serve rural Elders to prevent abuse including taking of advantage of finances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska establish APS offices in each regional hub community and/or remote community to facilitate Elder assistance and investigations of reports in a timely manner; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 8

**TITLE:** SUPPORTING WELLNESS IN PUBLIC AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE DRUG-FREE LIFESTYLES

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** Tribes and regional nonprofit organizations operate various public and tribal assistance programs which provide much needed resources to Alaskan families; and

**WHEREAS:** Wellness needs to be integrated into all aspects of assistance programs so that healthy self-sufficiency is promoted among current and future generations; and

**WHEREAS:** Drug free lifestyles are necessary for all families to function in communities and work places.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that wellness education and promotion among public and tribal assistance programs be supported such as promoting drug-free/alcohol-free/tobacco-free lifestyles, encouraging parents to ensure regular school attendance of children, and funding for village-community based wellness groups to work with families on public-tribal assistance; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a workgroup be convened to develop a culturally appropriate model policy that can be shared with tribes and regional nonprofit organizations to support family responsibility and necessary treatment and/or recovery options; and

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** DO PASS

**CONVENTION ACTION:** ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 9

TITLE: UNIVERSAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCREENING

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives has been working for many years to improve the socio-economic status of Alaska Native people, especially for Native women and children in our villages; and

WHEREAS: Despite the best efforts of many people, including Alaska Native leaders, there remains a serious problem of violence, child abuse and neglect, and drug addiction in our state; and

WHEREAS: Women of Alaska experience more domestic violence than women in the Lower 48, one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime, and an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year; and

WHEREAS: The extreme remoteness of many Alaskan communities and villages remains the major obstacle to providing services to victims in these areas. The Alaska rape rate is 2.5 times the national average, while child sexual assault is almost six times the national average; and

WHEREAS: More than one out of every three American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped in her lifetime, 27% of Alaska Native women reported being forced to take part in an unwanted sexual activity and one-half of Alaska Native women (51%) were victims of one or both sexual assault and physical violence; and

WHEREAS: More than 3 out of every 4 American Indian and Alaska Native women will be physically assaulted in her lifetime, in 2009 47% of Alaska Native Women reported they have ever experienced domestic violence, and

WHEREAS: Over one out of 4 Alaska Native men (27%) have experienced physical and/or sexual violence; and

WHEREAS: More than half of women in the Alaska Tribal Health System (ages 15-40) were screened for DV/SV in 2012; and

WHEREAS: Health care settings provide a unique opportunity for screening and intervention because of relationships, confidentiality, and being away from the abuser; and

WHEREAS: Screening for domestic violence is recommended for all women and provides a critical opportunity for disclosure of domestic violence and provides a woman and her health care provider the chance to develop a plan to protect her safety and improve her health; and

WHEREAS: A facility is more likely to screen if it has policies and procedures for domestic violence, and

WHEREAS: Universal screening is defined as a clinician or provider screening every patient through the age of 64 for domestic violence as only opposed to screening certain patients because of risk factors or warning signs; and

WHEREAS: The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals and Health Care Organizations, American Medical Association, American Congress of Obstetrician Gynecologists, American Nurses Association, and the U.S. Prevention Services Task Force all recommend routine interpersonal violence Screening; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples have the right to safety and resources to prevent or mitigate domestic violence and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS: Domestic Violence screenings provides women with valuable opportunities to get support and assistance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that all agencies with responsibility for health care, including but not limited to, The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, and Alaska Native Medical Providers will have policies and procedures regarding providing Universal Domestic Violence Screenings; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 10

**TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** The federal government has a trust responsibility to provide for the health of Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs), established by the U.S. Constitution, Treaties, U.S. Supreme Court decisions and federal legislation; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Tribes and Tribal organizations have assumed responsibility for all direct health services of the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Alaska and serve approximately 145,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs) in the state; and

**WHEREAS:** Funding for IHS is less than 60 percent of the level of need despite the fact that AN/AIs suffer from among the worst health disparities in the United States compared to the general population; and

**WHEREAS:** Only once since fiscal year (FY) 1998 were full year IHS appropriations authorized in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill by the beginning of the FY; and

**WHEREAS:** The health services provided to AN/AIs are negatively affected when IHS appropriations are not authorized prior to the beginning of the FY, and even more so during federal government shutdowns, due to the difficulty tribal health programs incur as a result of cash flow issues; and

**WHEREAS:** Congressional hearings have been held on bills that have been introduced in both the House, H.R.3229, and Senate, S.1570, that would provide discretionary budget authority for IHS one-year in advance starting with FY 2015; and

**WHEREAS:** Congress has provided advanced appropriations authority for medical care programs to the Veterans Administration (VA) through the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-81); and

**WHEREAS:** IHS and tribal health programs are the only other federal programs that provide direct health services, they should be afforded the same budgetary certainty and protections that are extended to the VA.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation

of Natives urge Congress to pass H.R. 3229 or S.1570, or any successor bills introduced in the next session of Congress, that provide for one-year advanced budgetary authority for IHS;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN invites all tribes, tribal organizations, and regional and intertribal organizations to join in this effort to ensure the federal government fulfills its trust responsibility to tribes by providing adequate resources to tribal health programs; and

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

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





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 11

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR MEDICARE-LIKE RATE CAP FOR NON-HOSPITAL SERVICES PURCHASED BY INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE AND TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Funding for the Indian Health Service (IHS) is less than 60 percent of the level of need despite the fact that Alaska Natives and American Indians suffer from among the worst health disparities in the United States compared to the general population; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Tribes and Tribal organizations have assumed responsibility for all direct health services of the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Alaska and serve approximately 145,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians in the state; and
- WHEREAS:** IHS and Tribal health programs use Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) (formerly, Contract Health Services) funds to purchase health services that are not available through IHS and Tribal health programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The PRC program is perpetually underfunded with an estimated need of \$770 million more to meet all PRC needs; and
- WHEREAS:** IHS and Tribal PRC programs often pay full-billed charges for non-hospital services, which leads to an early depletion of the limited funds available for PRC and a situation where PRC health services for Alaska Natives and American Indians have to be delayed or deferred; and
- WHEREAS:** An April 2013 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report estimated that IHS paid 70% more than Medicare and other federal payers for non-hospital services and could save \$23 million per year and use the savings to purchase an additional 253,000 patient visits annually if Medicare-Like Rates were extended non-hospital services purchased by the IHS PRC program; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal health programs administer more than half of the IHS budget and savings estimated in the GAO report would likely be double the amount estimated for only the IHS PRC program; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress has already enacted a law that established a Medicare-Like Rate cap for hospital services purchased by IHS and Tribal PRC programs; and

WHEREAS: On June 11, 2014 Rep. Betty McCollum introduced, H.R. 4843, the Native Contract and Rate Expenditure (CARE) Act,” which would cap payment to Medicare participating providers and suppliers at Medicare-Like Rates for care purchased by IHS and Tribal PRC programs; and

WHEREAS: Medicare, the Veterans’ Administration and the Department of Defense all have authority to pay much lower rates for care purchased for their beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS: The GAO report recommended that “Congress should consider imposing a cap on payments for” non-hospital services made through the IHS PRC program that is consistent with other federal agencies; and

WHEREAS: The administration has concurred with the GAO report recommendation and proposed in its FY 2015 Presidents Budget Request to Congress that legislation should be put forth to extend the cap for Medicare-Like Rates for non-hospital services purchased by IHS and tribal health programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urges Congress to pass H.R. 4843, the Native CARE Act, or any successor bills introduced in the next session of Congress, that would cap payment to Medicare participating providers and suppliers at Medicare-Like Rates for non-hospital services purchased by IHS and Tribal PRC programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN invites all tribes, tribal organizations, and regional and intertribal organizations to join in this effort to ensure the federal government fulfills its trust responsibility to tribes by providing adequate resources to tribal health programs; and

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

SUTMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

CONVENTION ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 12

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FOR MAKING INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS A PERMANENT MANDATORY APPROPRIATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Tribes and Tribal organizations have assumed responsibility for all direct health services of the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Alaska and are serve the approximately 145,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs) in the state; and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the federal government must pay the full contract support costs (CSC) due to tribes and tribal organizations under their “638” contracts with the federal government; and
- WHEREAS:** The legal obligation of the federal government to provide full payment for CSC is the type of obligation that the federal government normally funds on a mandatory basis; and
- WHEREAS:** CSC is currently funded on a discretionary basis, as part of the IHS annual lump sum appropriations, which does not guarantee full CSC funding and has for many years resulted in underpayment of CSC which forced tribal health programs to reduce the amount of essential health services to their beneficiaries; and
- WHEREAS:** Due to inability of IHS to accurately predict CSC for the fiscal year (FY) the IHS sent an August 29, 2014 letter to Congress notifying it of its intent to reprogram \$48 million from other budget line items, many direct care, for FY 2014 to pay full CSC; and
- WHEREAS:** There is no current method to accurately predict discretionary CSC a year in advance; and
- WHEREAS:** The right of tribes and tribal organizations to full CSC should not negatively affect appropriations for other IHS services or direct service tribes.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN work with the United States Congress and the administration to get legislation enacted that would make IHS CSC mandatory appropriations; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AFN invites all tribes, tribal organizations, and regional and intertribal organizations to join in this effort to ensure the federal government fulfills its trust responsibility to tribes by providing adequate resources to tribal health programs; and

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

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





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 13

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR FULL FUNDING OF VILLAGE BUILT CLINICS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The federal government has a trust responsibility to provide for the health of Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs), established by the U.S. Constitution, Treaties, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and federal legislation; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Tribes and Tribal organizations have assumed responsibility for all direct health services of the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Alaska and serve approximately 145,000 AN/AIs in the state; and

WHEREAS: A key component of the Alaska Native health care system is the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP), which provides primary health care and referrals in clinics throughout rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The CHAP health aides and practitioners—often the only health care professionals in remote villages—require adequate clinic facilities to deliver their critically needed services; and

WHEREAS: In the 1970s, IHS established the Village Built Clinic (VBC) lease program to fund rural health clinics; and

WHEREAS: Over the years, the cost of operating and maintaining VBCs has skyrocketed due to the rising costs of heating fuel, electricity, insurance, and other costs, yet IHS has not raised the majority of VBC lease rentals since 1989; and

WHEREAS: By 2006, a study showed that lease rentals paid by the IHS to the villages covered only 55% of operating costs, and that figure is even lower now; and

WHEREAS: Due to lack of maintenance, in many villages the CHAP operates in unsafe facilities; and

WHEREAS: IHS has a legal duty as well as a trust responsibility to provide an effective CHAP program, which requires adequate VBC facilities; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges IHS to identify and pay the full costs of operating and maintaining VBCs throughout Alaska at a safe and effective level commensurate with similar facilities in the lower 48 states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to IHS to fully fund VBC leases without reducing any other program; and

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

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





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 14

- TITLE:** REQUESTING MORE RESTRICTIVE LAWS REGULATING THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF TRAMADOL AND OTHER ADDITIVE SUBSTANCES TO INDIVIDUALS IN ALASKA AND ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The abuse of the drug Tramadol is an example of many similar synthetic drugs that are becoming very prevalent in our villages; and
- WHEREAS:** Tramadol is an “opioid” which means it has similar effects on the user as opiates, thus making it a synthetic opiate; and
- WHEREAS:** Laws have been enacted in the state of Alaska to regulate or prohibit the use of synthetic marijuana and other harmful synthetic drugs; and
- WHEREAS:** Tramadol can produce a morphine- or heroin-like high, and according to public health officials, is in the running to compete with OxyContin addiction; and
- WHEREAS:** Thousands of Tramadol and similar substances overdose cases arrive at emergency medical centers every year, and hundreds more are seeking treatment; and
- WHEREAS:** Physical tolerance can occur as the body becomes accustomed to a particular drug, thus, more of the drug is needed to produce the original desired effect; and
- WHEREAS:** Individuals with a tolerance to Tramadol and similar substances are at risk of overdose due to the consumption of increased amounts of the drug and it is further recommended that people who have been taking drugs should not stop using the drug immediately, as this can precipitate withdrawal symptoms; and
- WHEREAS:** Common symptoms of drug abuse withdraws includes the following: nausea and vomiting, upset stomach, cold sweats, cravings, diarrhea, fatigue, tremors, depression, irritability, agitation or aggressiveness, muscle and joint pain, seizures and restless legs; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request the congressional and legislative delegation to introduce bills outlawing the immediate over-the-counter and telephonic sales of Tramadol and similar substances.

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

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 15

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OPPOSING BALLOT MEASURE 2 LEGALIZING MARIJUANA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Ballot Measure 2 would legalize, commercialize, and industrialize recreational marijuana in the State of Alaska for adults 21 and over; and
- WHEREAS:** Ballot Measure 2 as written includes the legalization of all forms of marijuana, including potent and dangerous chemical concentrates and drug-infused edibles that appeal to children; and
- WHEREAS:** The use of marijuana has been found to have negative physical, mental, behavioral, educational, social, and health consequences on children, youth and adults; and
- WHEREAS:** The health and safety of our children, youth, communities and villages, are at risk; and
- WHEREAS:** Ballot Measure 2 provides that regardless of community or village preferences, the possession, use, display, purchase or importation of marijuana into the village, or the growing, processing or transporting up to 6 marijuana plants shall not be an offense, thereby precluding the local option ability of communities and villages to decide to be “dry” on marijuana, marijuana concentrates, or marijuana infused edibles; and
- WHEREAS:** The legalization of marijuana is predicted to produce significant net economic costs to villages, municipalities and cities in the areas of public safety, emergency services and other health and social services; and
- WHEREAS:** Ballot measure 2 ignores the significant problems that have been created by the legalization of recreational marijuana in other states, including public health hazards such as butane hash oil explosions and death from edibles; and
- WHEREAS:** The use and delivery of marijuana is still a violation of federal law under the Controlled Substances Act; and
- WHEREAS:** The initiative will result in pervasive marijuana advertisements that will be seen by our children, families, and more to encourage use, among other strategies, and
- WHEREAS:** The rates of use by our Youth will increase of marijuana use, including shatter, butane hash oil, and edibles, and are especially harmful to the brain development of our youth, and

WHEREAS: The initiative will not eliminate the illegal trafficking of marijuana to youth, there will be illegal export of marijuana and to the adult population will thrive illegal sales as well, and

WHEREAS: The initiative is not in the best interest of our children or future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives oppose and reject the Act to Tax and Regulate the production, sale, and use of marijuana which will be on the November 4 General election ballot and urge voters to defeat Ballot Measure 2; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF NAPASKIAK, EMMONAK CORPORATION, AKIAK IRA COUNCIL, AND ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: REFER TO BOARD

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 16

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** The suicide rate in rural Alaska is twice the national average; and

**WHEREAS:** The people of the rural Alaska suffer from disproportionately higher rates of suicide; and

**WHEREAS:** Suicide continues to be an urgent social and health concern for Alaska Natives; and

**WHEREAS:** Local governments and tribes cannot afford to meet the needs of rural Alaskans through suicide prevention and support services without funding assistance from state and federal sources; and

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives is in a unique position to advocate for funding for suicide prevention and support services for rural Alaskans.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports funding for rural Alaskan governments to implement suicide prevention and support services; and

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** EMMONAK CORPORATION  
**COMMITTEE ACTION:** DO PASS  
**CONVENTION ACTION:** ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 17

- TITLE:** REAFFIRM SUPPORT TO URGE CONGRESS TO ENACT THE ALASKA SAFE FAMILIES AND VILLAGES ACT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** All women, children and families have the right to be free of physical, emotional, and mental abuse and neglect; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Villages and Tribal governments have the inherent authority to ensure that their communities are safe, healthy, and free from violence; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women are two and a half times more likely to be victims of domestic violence and assault than non-Native women; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native women comprise 47% -- nearly one-half -- of the reported rape victims in Alaska, yet Alaska Native people constitute less than 20% of the state's population; and
- WHEREAS:** In many Alaska villages, a majority of the Native women have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives; and
- WHEREAS:** 95% of all crimes committed in rural Alaska are alcohol-related; and
- WHEREAS:** One of the factors that compound the problem of violence against women and children in rural Alaska is the delayed response of state law enforcement, which is centralized in hub cities one or more flights away from most Native villages; and
- WHEREAS:** Effective local tribal law enforcement and tribal civil court remedies are hampered by the absence of state recognition of tribal jurisdiction in Native villages, which has left a gap, or lack of resources and services that cannot be filled by state law enforcement, state courts, and state child protection services operating out of regional centers; and
- WHEREAS:** On August 8, 2010, Senator Mark Begich introduced the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act (S.3740), providing for a demonstration project that would allow Tribes to locally enforce their laws regarding alcohol and substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, using a grant program to support the project; and
- WHEREAS:** At AVCP's 2011 convention, the delegates adopted a resolution fully supporting the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act; and

WHEREAS: Since 2011, AVCP has actively advocated for solutions to the serious problems caused by the lack of local resources to address the high rate of domestic violence and suicides in Alaska villages; and

WHEREAS: On August 1, 2013, S. 1474 , a newly proposed Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act, was introduced by Senator Mark Begich, co-sponsored by Senator Lisa Murkowski, which would:

- recognize the authority of qualified and participating Alaska Tribes to exercise jurisdiction, concurrent with the State of Alaska, in matters relating to child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, drug-related offenses, and alcohol-related offenses;
- define the local village community in which such jurisdiction would apply;
- assure that tribal jurisdiction reaches all perpetrators residing or located in the village;
- require tribal governments to comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act;
- specify the sanctions participating tribal governments could impose;
- establish strict qualifications for tribal governments to participate in the project, including a detailed planning phase and ultimate certification by the US Attorney General;
- assure maximum notification and opportunity for the State to comment on any tribal application;
- require the US Attorney General to report to Congress annually on the Project, setting forth the US Attorney General's assessment and recommendations, and requiring the US Attorney General to consult with the participating Tribes and with the State; and
- assure that nothing in the law would be deemed to alter any preexisting jurisdiction of the State, nor to diminish any pre-existing jurisdiction of any participating Tribe;
- assure that the Project will not create any "Indian country" jurisdiction that may not already exist;
- assure that a participating Tribe's authority would be limited to civil jurisdiction, absent an inter-governmental agreement with the State providing otherwise;
- assure tribal access to Bureau of Indian Affairs funding otherwise available to 'Lower 48' Tribes for tribal court and law enforcement programs;
- authorize the US Attorney General to conduct training and provide technical assistance to Alaska Tribes on tribal court development;
- repeal section 910 of the Violence Against Women Act (which limited VAWA's application to Alaska), and
- facilitate tribal-state inter-governmental agreements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives reaffirm support to solve the problem created by the lack of local law enforcement and judicial resources, and urges the prompt enactment of the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act, and direct AFN staff and representatives to take all measures possible to advance this bill's enactment in the current Congress, and in the event this measure is not enacted, to continue to press for its enactment in the next Congress; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATING OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 45

- TITLE:** INCREASING THE SAFETY OF ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** we, the members of the Alaska Federation of Natives, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Native nations, rights and benefits secured and to which we are entitled consistent with the federal trust responsibility and government-to-government relations, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of Alaska Native tribes and people, to defend centuries old Native customs and traditions that have survived contact with foreign governments, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of Native people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native peoples honor, respect, and hold sacred Native women; retain our inherent right to live according to our life-affirming customs and traditions which regulates respectful boundaries for all of our relationships; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska is home to 229 or 40% of federally recognized tribes; one Native village-based women’s shelter, the Emmonak Women’s Shelter, operating since 1979; one tribal nonprofit domestic violence and sexual assault coalition, the Yup’ik Women’s Coalition operating since 2006; and the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center, a nonprofit dedicated to ending violence against women; and only 78 villages are served by State law enforcement who need culturally appropriate training on how to work with tribes and Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** the Federal government has a trust responsibility to Alaska Native tribes and should consult with Alaska Native tribes on violence against Native women; and
- WHEREAS:** the findings, including the statistics from Chapter 2 of the Indian Law and Order Commission Report released November 2013, entitled Reforming Justice for Alaska Natives: The Time Is Now, provide compelling justification for immediate implementation of the Report’s recommendations; and
- WHEREAS:** the Commission Report statistics include the following: Alaska Natives are disproportionately affected by crime, and these effects are felt most strongly in Native communities, including Alaska Native women over-represented in the domestic violence victim population by 250 percent, Native women represent 47 percent of reported rapes or at least seven times the non-Native rate, and in Native villages, reported rates of domestic violence are up to 10 times higher than the rest of the United States; and

- WHEREAS: Alaska Native villages suffer disproportionately from crimes rooted in a disruption of Native customs and traditions, which is evident with the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence, alcohol/substance abuse, suicide, homicide, teen pregnancy, removal and separation of children from their families, and diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and cirrhosis of the liver; and
- WHEREAS: the rates of missing and murdered Alaska Native women and women and girls have been ignored by the current health and justice systems and law enforcement; and
- WHEREAS: given the high rates of crimes and other issues, an equitable formula set aside for Alaska Native tribal governments is required of Federal and state resources for tribes to develop, implement and sustain local, culturally relevant solutions to immediately and comprehensively address the health, safety and welfare of its members and hold offenders accountable; and
- WHEREAS: the Federal government and the State of Alaska have not allocated resources equitably to Alaska Native tribes, especially those in rural, remote, off-road communities, including, but not limited to, funding under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Victims of Crime Act. In fact, federal and state laws, policies, and practices have limited tribal government's authority to protect and ensure the health and well being of our citizens; and
- WHEREAS: the State of Alaska has not complied with Sec. 2265 of the Violence Against Women Act addressing full faith and credit of protection orders, thus failing to protect victims with tribal orders; and
- WHEREAS: the State of Alaska has not complied with the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 amendments requiring the State to consult and coordinate with all 229 Alaska Native tribes in the development of the State's STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Implementation Plan; and
- WHEREAS: the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act of 2013 contained a Special Rule for the State of Alaska in Section 910, which thereby applied sections 904 and 905 of VAWA only to the Metlakatla Indian Community, Annette Island Reserve; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that:

- 1) The United States recognize and immediately respond to the human crisis confronting Alaska Native women due to the laws and policies that have left Alaska Native women vulnerable to perpetrators of rape, domestic violence, murder, sex trafficking, and hate crimes by:
  - Providing Alaska Native women the same protections under the Violence Against Women Act as other women in the United States specifically:
    - Assisting in the repeal of the Special Rule on Alaska contained in section 910 of VAWA 2013;
    - Require the State of Alaska Court system, Alaska State Troopers, and local police departments to recognize Alaska tribal court protection orders under the VAWA Full Faith and Credit, 18 USC 2265, and enter Alaska Native village protection orders into the National Protection Order Registry;
    - Require the State of Alaska to comply with VAWA 2013 to consult with Alaska Native Villages in the development of the State implementation plan required for the state to receive formula grant funds from OVW and coordinate with tribes in the implementation of the State plan; and

- Open an Alaska Office on Violence Against Women to provide the same access for the 229 Alaska Native Villages as Indian tribes within the lower forty-eight states to ensure equitable access of critical resources to Alaska tribes, and ensure meaningful access to Alaska Natives who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) and challenged by consistent Internet access.
- Providing Alaska Native women the same protections under the Family Violence and Prevention Services Act as other victims of domestic violence in the United States specifically:
  - Provide separate annual, non-competitive formula funding specifically to Alaska Native tribes for life-saving services for advocacy, shelter and victim services calculated based on the village tribal enrollment;
  - Release a solicitation for a regional domestic violence resource center developed in partnership with the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center to Increase the Safety of Native Women, as provided under the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act of 2010; and
  - Provide resources for the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center to work in partnership with the AFN to organize a Unity Meeting to Increase the Safety of Alaska Native Women annually and prior to the AFN Annual Convention beginning with the 2015 Convention.
- 2) The Alaska Federation of Natives will work with the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center to host an annual Unity Meeting to Increase the Safety of Alaska Native Women and prior to the Annual Convention beginning in 2015.
- 3) The Alaska Federation of Natives will work with the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center to establish a Task Force dedicated to addressing the emerging issues preventing the safety of Alaska Native Women.

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

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| SUBMITTED BY:      | TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE |
| BOARD ACTION:      | DO PASS                  |
| CONVENTION ACTION: | ADOPT AS AMENDED         |



# Education



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 18

- TITLE:** REQUEST FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES, VILLAGES, AND REGIONAL NON PROFITS TO COORDINATE, COLLABORATE AND WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE RURAL EDUCATION AND KEEP RURAL SCHOOL OPEN
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Education is the key to a better future for Alaska Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS:** Education of Alaska Native children is a high priority and an essential foundation for building strong Alaskan Native leadership; and
- WHEREAS:** Case studies and qualitative studies have demonstrated the educational benefits of a culturally based education; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s tribes and villages are harmed when villages school close and the effects of a school closure are devastating; and
- WHEREAS:** Resources are used efficiently and effectively when Villages, Regional Nonprofit Organizations, and other Alaska Native Education Stakeholders come together with local boards of education to build partnerships, share information, and develop strategies.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that Tribes, Villages, Regional Nonprofits, and Alaska Native Education Stakeholders work together with local boards of education and coordinate in sharing information, strategies, and best practices that will bring about positive and culturally relevant education change to Alaska Native students; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the Alaska Federation of Natives request that Tribes, Villages, Regional Nonprofits, and Alaska Native Education Stakeholders work together with local boards of education and coordinate in sharing information, strategies, and best practices to keep rural school open, thereby keeping villages strong; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

Submitted by: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 19

- TITLE:** TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION EQUITY ACT AND UTILIZE ALL LEGISLATIVE TOOLS TO ENSURE THAT FUNDING IS ADMINISTERED BY ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Education Equity Act was enacted by Congress in 2002 and provides approximately \$33 million per year in funding for programs across the State that address the needs of Alaska Native students—from early childhood education to secondary school preparation programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) does not contribute funds to the education of Alaska Native students; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Education Equity Act authorizes the use of funds under the Act for the development of curriculum and educational programs that reflect and are aligned with the cultural diversity, language and contributions of Alaska Native people and for other supplemental educational programs that support Alaska Native college and career readiness; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Native Educational Equity Act states that it is the policy of the Federal Government to encourage maximum participation by Alaska Native people in the planning and management of Alaska Native Education programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The Act also authorizes the Department of Education to fund programs under this act administered by Alaska Native Organizations and tribes, educational entities and cultural and community-based organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** Assessments of grant funding reflects the following:
- Fewer awards granted to Alaska Native Organizations and tribes
  - More awards to school districts, University of Alaska, and other organizations, and
  - Alaska Native Organizations and tribes may be identified as “Partners” with school districts, University of Alaska, or other organizations, but in actuality have little to no control or oversight of the grant development, implementation, and programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Because of the pressure by Congress, the Department of Education, for the first time, used only the priorities listed in the legislation, and has attempted to implement quality controls to

ensure “meaningful partnerships,” but school districts and universities still received the bulk of the grants in FY14; and

- WHEREAS: The Department of Education has not yet adequately defined “meaningful partnerships” such that Alaska Native Organizations and tribes provide the leadership; and
- WHEREAS: School Districts and Universities have access to other funding for which Alaska Native Organizations and tribes are ineligible to apply; and
- WHEREAS: The Act specifically prioritizes funding for Alaska Native regional nonprofit organizations or consortia that include such Alaska Native Organizations and tribes; and
- WHEREAS: Native Cultures and Languages have been documented to serve as resilience factors in youth, and inclusion of such content in meaningful ways can support academic success; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native corporations, organizations, and tribes throughout the State of Alaska are working to improve Native Education through intentional and strategic programs that utilize culturally relevant curricula; and
- WHEREAS: Over the last ten years, Alaska Native Organizations and tribes have successfully demonstrated that they can provide programs that improve academic performance of Alaska Native students; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native Organizations and tribes have also offered programs that offer social, emotional and technological supports that demonstrate proven student success in addition to language and culture; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native Organizations and tribes, working in partnerships with Schools, Universities, or other Organizations as the lead can ensure the success of Alaska Native students; and
- WHEREAS: The term Alaska Native Organization has the following definition in the current legislation:  
“ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Alaska Native organization’ means a federally recognized tribe, consortium of tribes, regional nonprofit Native association, and another organization that—  
(A) has or commits to acquire expertise in the education of Alaska Natives; and  
(B) has Alaska Natives in substantive and policymaking positions within the organization;” and
- WHEREAS: Though not typically considered Alaska Native Organizations, local boards of education consisting of a majority of Alaska Native Members fit the definition of an Alaska Native organization.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support the continuation of Alaska Native Education Equity Act funding in order to meet the dire needs of Alaska Native students, and urges the Alaska delegation to pursue every means possible to ensure inclusion and continuation of the Alaska Native Education

Equity Act in the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and to ensure that sufficient funding for the program is appropriated and authorized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives further urges Congress to take action to ensure that grants funded by the Alaska Native Educational Equity Program are administered through Alaska Native Organizations and tribes and as lead grantees with partners, and that the Department of Education consults with Alaska Native Organizations and tribes to identify programmatic priority areas for future funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Native calls upon the Department of Education to require evidence of meaningful partnerships including memorandums of agreement, evidence of shared budgets and costs, and partner involvement in planning and implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federal of Natives requests that the Congressional delegation take action to ensure that the Department of Education issues a Request for Proposals for FY 2015, rather than using the applications from FY2014 to distribute the over \$20 million in grants for FY15.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate for full inclusion of tribes and tribal education departments in all funding opportunities; and

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

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| SUTMITTED BY:      | COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES |
| COMMITTEE ACTION:  | DO PASS                                       |
| CONVENTION ACTION: | ADOPT AS AMENDED                              |





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 20

Title: SUPPORTING EXPANDED STATEWIDE FUNDING FOR EARLY LEARNING

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

Whereas: Today, more than 50% of Alaska children enter school unprepared to read or learn, yet it is well known that to make sure no child is left behind, no child should start behind; and

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

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

Whereas: Pre-Kindergarten pilot programs have demonstrated significant impact of early learning programs, including 70% readiness for kindergarten after rigorous evaluation ; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support expanding the early learning funding across the state to make the most important investment in the next generation by:

1. Increasing the engagement of parents, grandparents and extended family in their child's learning by providing resources and incentives.
2. Developing and increasing access to quality, culturally engaging reading materials.
3. Increasing proven, family centered programs by partnering with other organizations.
4. Distributing Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines in family friendly formats.
5. Implementing a quality rating and improvement system to help parents evaluate child care and early learning programs and to guide program improvement.
6. Increasing the professional development opportunities and qualifications for early childhood educators and provide appropriate compensation.
7. Developing and fully fund a statewide system of voluntary early childhood education.
8. Educating Alaskans about the social imperative of preparing children from birth to age 6 to be ready to read and learn.

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

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 21

TITLE: SCHOOL SUPPORT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS), Galena Interior Learning Academy, and other rural schools in Alaska provides a unique educational setting for students, whether rural or urban, who want more course offerings or more individualized attention and smaller class sizes, and

WHEREAS: Many MEHS and other rural school graduates have found a variety of post-secondary successes due to the education they received at MEHS and other schools; and

WHEREAS: All rural schools in Alaska are facing incredible challenges as energy infrastructure in rural Alaska is lacking forcing rural schools to expend up to forty percent into heat and electricity taking away essential dollars from students; and

WHEREAS: Some of our rural schools have closed down due to minimum enrollment requirements compromising quality professional education for our rural students; and

WHEREAS: When the Department of Education and Early Development was required to reduce its budget and due to the flat funding of the Base Student Allocation, MEHS and other rural schools were forced to cut teaching positions, causing an increase in class size and potentially reducing the quality of education; and

WHEREAS: This budget shortfall has resulted in fewer course offerings and larger teacher-student ratios; and

WHEREAS: Every year, there are a decrease of funds available from federal grants to fund MEHS and other rural schools; and

WHEREAS: The graduates and parents from across Alaska appreciate the education offered at Mt. Edgecumbe High School and rural schools do not want to see the quality of an MEHS education or rural schools diminish due to budget cuts; and

WHEREAS: Supporters of MEHS and rural schools also support the teachers; and.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives advocate for a restoration of needed funding to Mt. Edgecumbe High School to maintain its prior level of services to students and restore funding to re-hire the much needed teachers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests that the honorable members of the Alaska State Legislature pass a legislative resolution providing for a meaningful yearly increase in the Base Student Allocation, which keeps up with inflation and rising fuel costs in order that MEHS and rural schools may continue to provide a consistent level of service and high quality education for Alaskan students; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 44

- TITLE:** INITIATIVES TO REVERSE THE STATUS OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AS ENDANGERED LANGUAGES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native languages embody our cultures, worldview, and the knowledge of our ancestors; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native languages exemplify the richness of our land and define our group orientation and kinship; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native languages personify our tangible and intangible relationship to our land, wildlife and universe; and
- WHEREAS:** Linguistics have classified Alaska Native languages as deteriorating and nearing extinction; and;
- WHEREAS:** No Alaska Native language group is producing new speakers with a Native language as their first language except perhaps in rare instances; and
- WHEREAS:** At the time America was colonized more than 300 Native American languages were spoken, but today the number of Native languages spoken has dropped to just over half of the original number and most are identified as endangered; and
- WHEREAS:** Federal programs have been enacted to support Native American, Alaska Natives and Pacific Islander communities to facilitate language preservation and revitalization activities; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2012 the total federal dollars spend on all Alaska Natives and American Indian languages was \$14.6 million; and
- WHEREAS:** These federal dollars are totally inadequate to support and reverse the status of Alaska Native and American Indian languages as endangered; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska enacted An Act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council in 2012; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska enacted An Act Adding Alaska Native languages as official languages as of the State; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska failed to allocate any funds under these Acts for language revitalization programs; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska established the University of Alaska Native Language Center in 1972 for the documentation of Alaska Native languages; and

WHEREAS: Studies and data have conclusively demonstrated that the integration of Native languages into schools enhances the academic achievement of Native students that result in further and numerous benefits to Alaska Natives and the State of Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the President and Congress to adopt the following initiatives:

1. Adopt a Proclamation and Policy that declares that Alaska Native languages are endangered and provide funds to reverse the status of Alaska Native languages as endangered.
2. Issue an Executive Order that Alaska Native Languages are endangered and that the Order shall direct government agencies to support Alaska Native Languages through their agency funding, programs and activities.
3. Provide additional funding for Head Start and early childhood education programs dedicated for the integration of Alaska Native languages into these program.
4. Direct the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities to expand its language grants to provide for Alaska Native Organizations and tribes to work with first language speakers to document the full and contextualized meaning of Alaska Native languages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to adopt the following initiatives:

1. Adopt a Proclamation and Policy that declares that Alaska Native languages are endangered and provide funds to reverse the status of Alaska Native languages as endangered.
2. Issue an Executive Order that Alaska Native Languages are endangered and that the Order shall direct state governmental agencies to support Alaska Native Languages through their agency funding, programs and activities.
3. Provide funding for Alaska Native Language Restoration grants to Alaska Native Organization and tribes including funds to integrate Native languages into Head Start and early education programs under the auspices of the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council.
4. Direct the Alaska Department of Education to promote the integration of Alaska Native languages into Alaska schools.
5. Direct the University of Alaska Native Language Center to establish the revitalization of Alaska Native Languages as its highest priority in funding and allocation of resources and to provide for funded professional development and training in language restoration teaching methods that support potential and current Alaska Native teachers' ability to be successful as teachers.

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

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION, CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST ALASKA VILLAGES

BOARD ACTION:

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED



## Land & Natural Resources



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 22

- TITLE:** PROTECT TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS IN THE ALASKA/BRITISH COLUMBIA REGION BY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES TO IMPLEMENT THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION (IJC) INVOLVEMENT
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports all of its members in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS:** Transboundary rivers of the Northwest British Columbia and Southeast Alaska region, including the Taku, Stikine and Unuk rivers, are of tremendous and unique ecological, customary and traditional use (subsistence), cultural and recreational value and are some of the most productive salmon rivers on the entire North American west coast; and
- WHEREAS:** Salmon, Hooligan, and other traditional foods are the foundation of our cultural existence and economic welfare and these transboundary rivers have nourished our tribal communities since time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS:** Healthy wild salmon populations in these river systems are a priority to our tribal nations and tribal citizens' community health, cultural existence, and sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes and other organizations concerned about protecting water quality and salmon must be an integral to any transboundary watershed development decision making; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States must uphold its trust responsibility and obligation to consult with Tribes and protect our interests and citizens; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boundary Waters Treaty between the United State and Canada states that “waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other” and provides a mechanism for the United States and Canada to address transboundary river concerns known as the International Joint Commission.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN strongly urges the United States government to uphold its trust responsibility to Alaska Tribes and to work with the Canadian government by referring the transboundary development and downstream concerns to the to the International Joint Commission and to

utilize any and all powers under the Boundary Waters Treaty to ensure that our cultural existence and community health are not harmed by upstream development in BC; and

BE IT FURTHER REOLVED, that affected tribal governments be consulted with and represented in any policy discussion related to impacts to United States waters and communities per Executive Order 13175 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

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

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| SUBMITTED BY:      | CENTRAL COUNCIL TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA |
| COMMITTEE ACTION:  | DO PASS   |
| CONVENTION ACTION: | ADOPT AS AMENDED  |





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 23

TITLE: INCLUSION OF ALASKA NATIVES IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Native people have always had the most at stake when it comes to resource and commercial development occurring in our surrounding homelands; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples have the traditional, intimate and longstanding knowledge and relationships with the Alaskan ecosystem, communities and environment better than any other people; and

WHEREAS: Resource and commercial development is best accomplished with the full engagement and involvement with the indigenous peoples of Alaska including proper involvement in the planning, development, employment and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS: Resource and commercial development continues to accelerate, and Alaska Natives can provide perspective, expertise, and traditional knowledge into the decision making process; and

WHEREAS: Official Alaska Native representation on the resource and commercial development process should include representation from both tribes and Alaska Native corporations to support fully voiced perspectives and concerns.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that resource developers consult with Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations on resource development projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN recommends that Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations develop guidelines for businesses and corporations to use to engage in meaningful consultation with Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations regarding resource development projects taking place in their respective regions; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED



Economic



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 24

- TITLE:** ESTABLISHING FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND FUNDING PRIORITY FOR ALL RURAL ESSENTIAL MARINE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska is a vast state with millions of acres of wilderness and has few transportation options with ground transportation non-existent to most rural Alaskan communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The majority of Alaska’s rural, off-road system communities are either ocean or riverine based; relying on marine transportation to freight heavy cargo; such as fuel, building materials for housing and public buildings, groceries, vehicles and dry goods; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s marine coastal communities also rely on marine facilities to support valuable resource based industries such as fishing, tourism and logging and that such facilities are necessary to sustainable economic development and growth as well as to remove accumulations of solid waste from rural communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States Government has recognized the importance of Essential Air Service in that it provides a vital link that connects, sustains, and maintains our communities, however, the United States Government has not formally recognized nor established a program of Essential Marine Transportation that formally recognizes the critically important nature of marine transportation in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Many of our rural coastal communities do not receive regularly scheduled freight or ferry services resulting in no regular marine shipping services for Alaska’s rural, marine-based communities. This in turn causes an exorbitantly high cost of living relating to the cost of shipping fuel, vehicles, groceries, and staples, a very high cost of construction of new housing and public buildings due to mobilization and shipping costs, and the high cost of maintaining large accumulations of solid waste with no ability to remove them, including materials that can be recyclable; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the Annual 2014 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that it strongly recommends the creation of an Essential Marine Transportation Program by the United States Government to provide marine transportation subsidies, including the shipment of fuel to support regular, vital, shipping services to Alaska’s coastal and riverine communities; and

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

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

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

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| SUBMITTED BY:      | KONIAG-KANA ROUNDTABLE |
| COMMITTEE ACTION:  | DO PASS                |
| CONVENTION ACTION: | ADOPT AS AMENDED       |





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 25

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE OF ALASKA TO REQUIRE NO LESS THAN 75% OF NON-SKILLED LABOR AND 25% OF SKILLED POSITIONS ON FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDED PUBLIC WORKS AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN RURAL ALASKA TO BE LOCAL COMMUNITY HIRE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska and United States Federal Government have invested and continue to invest in rural Alaska public works and construction projects; and
- WHEREAS:** Congress has a responsibility to provide for the economic betterment of Alaska Natives and has held numerous hearings over the years to address the overwhelming poverty, unemployment, and lack to basic infrastructure Alaska Natives experience; and
- WHEREAS:** The vast majority of rural Alaska community residents are Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Several attempts to mandate local hire were ruled unconstitutional in both the Alaska Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court, resulting in AS 36, 10.150 – Employment Preference Determination, which states that areas of Alaska with unemployment rates substantially higher than the national rate will be designated zones of underemployment and Alaska resident preference in hire will be practiced for projects that are 100 percent funded with state or local dollars; and
- WHEREAS:** Governor Parnell recently reversed the Employment Preference Determination in several regions in Alaska citing an increase in employment rates; and
- WHEREAS:** The July 2013 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in rural Alaska regions were as high as 23.9%, as reported by the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development; and
- WHEREAS:** Nonresidents account for as much as 78.5% of the workforce in rural Alaskan communities, according to the Residency of Alaska Workers report that was published by the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development; and
- WHEREAS:** Rural Alaskan communities are experiencing a dramatic rise in outmigration as people leave rural Alaska in search of employment; and

WHEREAS: Additional training opportunities are needed in rural Alaska to help prepare residents for some positions; and

WHEREAS: Contractors and subcontractors regularly secure work for state and federally funded contracts in rural Alaskan communities and bring their own workforce from other communities and states to perform the work.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the United States Federal Government and the State of Alaska are urged to require no less than 75% of non-skilled labor and 25% of skilled professional and management positions on federal and state funded public works and construction projects to be local community hire in rural communities where the unemployment rates are higher than the national rate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Federal Government Department of Labor and State of Alaska are urged to require contractors and sub-contractors who secure federal or state funded public works and construction projects in rural communities to provide the local community no less than 90 days notice of the type of positions that will be hired for the project to enable communities time to recruit for open positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the United States Federal Government and the State of Alaska are urged to set aside training funds for rural Alaskan communities to enable communities to fund group and individual trainings to ensure residents receive the required trainings to secure skilled positions in public works and construction projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN staff will work with the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Governor's Office, and the Alaska Delegation to enact the recommendations in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the State of Alaska and the Federal Government will report back to the general public on the status of the local hire goal. This report will explain whether the goal was met and why; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG-KANA ROUNDTABLE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 26

- TITLE:** SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC LAW 102-477 PROGRAMMING BY UPHOLDING TRIBAL MANAGEMENT OVER FEDERAL AGENCY FUNDS IN AN INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM AND URGE TRANSFER OF THE 477 PROGRAM FROM DOI INDIAN ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO INDIAN SERVICES AT BIA.
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992, has proven to be an exceptional success in making existing federal programming more effective in meeting the employment, training, education and welfare reform needs of Tribes and Tribal Organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477 substantially reduces the administrative cost and time to manage integrated programs, promotes efficiency, and expands ability to provide services; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477 promotes increasing the cooperation and coordination of federal agencies with regard to Tribes and Tribal Organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** P.L. 102-477 fully embodies the concepts of Tribal Self-Governance and Self-Determination found in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and
- WHEREAS:** 61 contractors and compactors, representing 264 Tribes and Tribal Organizations, have successfully adopted P.L. 102-477 in the administration of Tribal employment, training, education and welfare reform programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal organizations run 17 of the 61 programs and include 217 of the 264 Tribes and Tribal Organizations in the 477 program.
- WHEREAS:** the P.L. 102-477 program received one of the highest Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) rating in the Department of the Interior Indian Affairs by the Office of Management and Budget; and
- WHEREAS:** despite the record of Tribal success with P.L. 102-477, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has historically resisted, without appropriate Tribal consultation, to fully participate in the P.L. 102-477 Program; and

- WHEREAS: Tribes and Tribal Organizations have been forced to withdraw their proposed 477 plans because DHHS denies or significantly delays approval to the detriment of Tribal employment and training programs; and
- WHEREAS: the Office of Management and Budget through mid-year compliance guidelines to Circular A-133 in 2009 retroactively required Tribes and Tribal Organizations to account for 477 funds by funding source, contrary to the intent of the P.L. 102-477 legislation; and
- WHEREAS: the Department of Education is an identified federal partner according to the law, but has not entered into agreements as required by the law; and
- WHEREAS: the attempts by federal agencies to undermine the intent of P.L. 102-477, and the will of Congress, damages Indian Self-Governance and Self-Determination, the 477 demonstration project and the concept of Tribal program integration; and
- WHEREAS: The Department of Interior has planned to move the 477 Program from its current home in the Division of Workforce Development, Indian Energy and Economic Development, to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Human Resources for over four years without any action having yet been taken.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN does hereby strongly urge the US Senate and House of Representatives to pass HB 5617 and SB 1574 (which has passed out of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs), with the intent of clarifying any questions or doubts or lingering loopholes exploited by DHHS or any federal agency to the detriment of Tribal programming; and

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the immediate transfer of the 477 division within DOI from the Division of Indian Energy and Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Indian Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests the US Senate and House of Representatives to pass SB 1574; and

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

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





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 27

- TITLE:** SUPPORT FULL FUNDING AND REAUTHORIZATION FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION (NAHASDA)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) created the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) and the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) which is the primary source of funding for affordable housing for Alaska Native and American Indian families; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA allocates \$98 million each year to Alaskan Tribes and communities; and
- WHEREAS:** NAHASDA empowers Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), also known as Regional Housing Authorities, with local decision making which enables the creation of housing programs that are specific to each region or community; and
- WHEREAS:** Private sector housing construction and development in rural Alaska is almost non-existent; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and Regional Housing Authorities (RHA) have an established record of effectively partnering with the State of Alaska, non-profit agencies, and private sector investors to leverage NAHASDA funds; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribes and RHAs, on an average annual basis, have used NAHASDA funds to construct 190 new homes (\$45 million), rehabilitate 740 existing homes (\$20 million), weatherize 1,220 homes (\$23 million), employ 1,145 full-time jobs (\$57 million), pay Alaskan businesses and contractors for services (\$84 million), thereby contributing to our rural economies; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the many successes over the past 15 years with NAHASDA housing programs, housing conditions remain inferior, and demand for affordable housing remains unmet in nearly every Alaskan community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Tribes, the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities (AAHA), and the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) must work diligently each year to lobby members of Congress and powerful Congressional committees on the importance and the success of

NAHASDA to ensure continued funding and to protect NAHASDA funds from elimination or reductions;

WHEREAS: NAHASDA provides a 5-year reauthorization schedule and is currently being considered by Congress for reauthorization in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress (2014).

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that Congress and the President reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA); and

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

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES; ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 28

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE RE-INSTATEMENT OF FUNDING BY THE STATE OF ALASKA FOR THE VILLAGE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM (VEEP)
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Village Energy Efficiency Program has been operated in one form or another by the Alaska Energy Authority since 2005 and has had a well-documented track record of reducing energy costs across the state; and
- WHEREAS:** In the Alaska Energy Policy Act of 2010 under AS 44.99.115 the state committed to: instituting a “comprehensive and coordinated approach to support energy efficiency and conservation.” The Village Energy Efficiency Program (VEEP) has been their most successful and well documented method of accomplishing this statute; and
- WHEREAS:** The VEEP program has a proven track record of saving the state of Alaska Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Endowment and State Dept. of Education funding. This amounts to documented savings of \$3-\$5.50 in savings for every \$1 invested; and
- WHEREAS:** In FY14 there were 86 applications for the VEEP from rural communities across the state, documenting the high need for the program, but only 7 of these 86 proposals were funded; and
- WHEREAS:** The high cost of energy in rural communities threatens the ability of our public facilities across rural Alaska to keep their buildings heated and their lights on; and
- WHEREAS:** In FY14 the state of Alaska funded the Village Energy Efficiency Program through the Alaska Energy Authority via the governor’s proposed capital budget but then removed the line item in FY15.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that the Governor of the State of Alaska recognize the importance of the Village Energy Efficiency Program in reducing costs and saving energy in rural communities. We request that the Governor return funding in his proposed FY16 budget for the Village Energy Efficiency Program. The VEEP program accomplishes the state’s goal of investing wisely to save money in the future and provides opportunity for all of Alaska.

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

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 29

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO CONTINUE THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION PROGRAM AND URGE THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The cost of power in rural Alaska is prohibitively expensive; and
- WHEREAS:** Communities in rural Alaska experience kilowatt-hour charges that are often three to five times higher than the average kWh rate for Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau; and
- WHEREAS:** The Power Cost Equalization program was established in 1985 as a component of a statewide energy plan to provide economic assistance to customers in rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaskans living in rural Alaska benefit from the Alaska Energy Authority's Power Cost Equalization Program and are able to pay a more reasonable and affordable rate for energy as a result of the program; and
- WHEREAS:** Without the Power Cost Equalization program, many residents would not be able to afford power; and
- WHEREAS:** The energy policy for rural Alaska, even with the Power Cost Equalization program, is not sustainable; and
- WHEREAS:** The State and Federal governments must fund alternative energy technology such as wind, hydro programs suitable for Alaskan rivers, solar, and other programs in order to meet the needs of rural Alaska.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Federation of Natives seeks the continuation and expansion of the Power Cost Equalization program and advocates for increased funding and funding for alternative energy technology for rural Alaska; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: EMMONAK CORPORATION  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 39

- TITLE: SUPPORTING THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS: The Arctic Council was established in 1996; and
- WHEREAS: The Arctic Council was established through the *Ottawa Declaration of 1996* to function as a high level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction across the Arctic, with the involvement of Arctic Indigenous communities and people, with a focus on sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic; and
- WHEREAS: The United States of America, Russian Federation, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Kingdom of Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), Iceland and Canada are all member nations of the Arctic Council; and
- WHEREAS: The great state of Alaska makes the United States a member nation because of its Arctic regions; and
- WHEREAS: The Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council include the Inuit Circumpolar Council, Aleut International Association, Gwich'in Council International, Arctic Athabaskan Council, the Saami Council, and Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North (RAIPON); and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Natives are represented in four of the six Permanent Participant organizations; and
- WHEREAS: In 2013 Canada assumed the chair of the Arctic Council; and
- WHEREAS: On August 23 2012, the Prime Minister of Canada, Steven Harper, appointed Minister Leona Aglukkaq as the Chair of the Arctic Council during Canada's chairmanship; and
- WHEREAS: Minister Aglukkaq is an Inuk from Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada; and
- WHEREAS: She is the first indigenous person to serve as Chair of the Arctic Council; and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives celebrates her appointment and leadership as an indigenous Chair because she fully understands the needs, challenges and benefits of living in the Arctic; and
- WHEREAS: Minister Aglukkaq recognizes that along with environmental stewardship there must be a balance with responsible development of our natural and human resources; and

- WHEREAS: As a result of this understanding, Minister Aglukkaq took a leadership position to create the Arctic Economic Council; and
- WHEREAS: The Arctic Economic Council is comprised of the same membership as the Arctic Council; and
- WHEREAS: The Arctic Economic Council held its inaugural organizational meeting in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada on September 3-4, 2014; and
- WHEREAS: Representatives from the member countries of The United States of America, Russian Federation, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Kingdom of Denmark (Greenland), Iceland and Canada were present; and, representatives from the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, and the Saami Council represented the Permanent Participants; and
- WHEREAS: Drue Pearce, Gail Schubert, Lori Davey, and Bruce Harlan represented the United States at the inaugural meeting in Iqaluit; and, Tara Sweeney represented the Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska as Permanent Participant; and
- WHEREAS: The United States federal government's participation was noticeably absent with no official Senior Arctic Official from the U.S. State Department; and
- WHEREAS: The representatives from Alaska learned that the United States federal government does not recognize the direct association between the Arctic Economic Council and the Arctic Council; and
- WHEREAS: The United States federal government, upon the recommendation of the United States State Department, does not support having the Arctic Economic Council serve as a business advisor to the Arctic Council; and
- WHEREAS: These actions by the United States State Department have an adverse impact on Alaska, the Alaska Native community and the Arctic Economic Council; and
- WHEREAS: As an Arctic state, Alaska Natives recognize the importance of environmental stewardship balanced with responsible economic development of our natural and human resources; and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives supports the position of Minister Aglukkaq and her wisdom that recognizes that Arctic indigenous people need both environmental stewardship and responsible economic development to continue to thrive in the Arctic; and
- WHEREAS: Arctic indigenous people rely on the land and the sea to sustain our traditional lifestyle which defines why we are who we are; and
- WHEREAS: Arctic indigenous people also rely on the revenue from responsible economic development to maintain our schools, roads, communities, and public service infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS: Arctic indigenous people also have a wealth of traditional knowledge needed to ensure that responsible policies that impact the Arctic also incorporate that traditional knowledge in order to support thriving Alaska Native communities to have the regional indigenous tribe within the Arctic to have a voting seat on the Arctic Council; and
- WHEREAS: The absence of the United States federal government's presence at, and support of, the Arctic Economic Council and its direct association with the Arctic Council weakens the indigenous position and Alaska's position within the Arctic Economic Council; and

WHEREAS: The United States federal government should work to empower Alaska and Alaska Natives as a partner in the Arctic Economic Council, not work to diminish the authority.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon the Obama Administration to direct the United States State Department to formally acknowledge the direct association between the Arctic Economic Council and the Arctic Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests the Obama Administration direct the United States State Department to also formally acknowledge and support the Arctic Economic Council as the business advisor to the Arctic Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN requests the Obama Administration direct the United States State Department to engage its Senior Arctic Official with the business of the Arctic Economic Council; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN requests the Obama Administration direct the United States State Department to hold an official signing ceremony in Alaska pledging and certifying its full support for the Arctic Economic Council in the forms described above; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 40

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND STATE OF ALASKA TO HONOR NATIVE AMERICAN FEDERALLY NEGOTIATED INDIRECT RATE COST AGREEMENTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** These Native Organizations are facing significant and critical hardship in providing services due to Federal and State funding sources *not honoring* Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements; and
- WHEREAS:** Greatly rising administrative overhead costs and operational costs without built in cost of living increases create significant financial gaps and shortfalls, and Native Organizations are operating at significant loss because they are not permitted to cover the actual cost of the funded program services, including the rising administrative overhead and operational cost from the programs; and
- WHEREAS:** Native Organizations have already done due diligence and have already followed the required processes to negotiate and come into an agreement with the Federal Government of the United States to determine an approved Indirect Rate Cost to administer essential services for Tribal people in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** The United States Government and State of Alaska should honor Federally Negotiated Indirect Rate Cost Agreements; and
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the *obligation* of the United States Government to honor formal agreements and treaties with the Native American people of the United States, specifically for this resolution to honor Federally Negotiated Indirect Rate Cost agreements with all Native American Tribes and Native Organizations with all Federal and State funding agencies; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Federal Government of the United States give direction to existing funding agencies to remove inappropriately capped or limited administrative cost limitations for both existing and future funding for Tribes and Native Organizations, and honor the Federally Negotiated and Approved Indirect Rate Cost Agreements with each Native American Tribe and Native Organization; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that AFN continues to support and pursue appropriate action with the Alaska State Legislature, Alaska Congressional Delegation, and National Congress of American Indians, to honor and allow federal negotiated indirect rate cost agreements in federal and state funds; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLAND ASSOCIATION  
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 49

- TITLE:** PROMOTING TOURISM THAT PROVIDES BENEFITS TO ALASKA NATIVE ARTISTS, BUSINESSES, CORPORATIONS, TRIBES AND THE STATE OF ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Millions of visitors are attracted to Alaska to view and experience Alaska’s pristine land and environment and its Native culture and arts; and
- WHEREAS:** Tourism is a major economic industry in the State of Alaska but is dominated by non-Alaskan corporations; and
- WHEREAS:** Tourist companies have changed the focus of tourism from locally-owned and run businesses and to their own auxiliary tours and shop and those offered by partner firms and have developed mechanisms to control the flow of visitor to these destinations; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska invests over \$16 million to promote tourism in Alaska and many communities have invested significantly in their infrastructure to support the massive influx of people during the summer months, but Alaskan and locally-owned businesses receive minimal benefits from these investments; and
- WHEREAS:** Shops opened by out of state owners often sell counterfeit Alaskan Native arts and craft made in Asia that further marginalizes Alaskan Native artists; and
- WHEREAS:** The Silver Hand Program which was established by the State to promote authentic Alaska Native handicrafts and artwork receives minimal funding and has been routinely abused by businesses who sell counterfeit items; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has established an Alaska Loyal program which emphasizes the importance and need to support Alaskan made products; and
- WHEREAS:** The tourist industry generates money and jobs, but an economic impact study of one tourist bound community found that only 10 cents of every dollar spent in that community remained in the local economy; and
- WHEREAS:** According to a Forest Service case study, one out of four jobs in the statewide leisure and hospitality industry went to nonresident workers in 2002; and

WHEREAS: Native artists and businesses could benefit from the tourism industry through sales of their artwork and Alaskan products; and

WHEREAS: Partnerships between tourism companies and Alaska Native businesses and tribes could ensure cultural sensitivity and authenticity of tourist attractions and can provide significantly more insight and education to visitors while also creating jobs for residents and revenues for Alaskan businesses; and

WHEREAS: The success of these agreements can be seen with the Alaska Native Voices Program started by a Native corporation that provides cultural education to tourists while employing their shareholders and tribal members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request the Alaska State Legislature and the State of Alaska to adopt a policy that ensures its annual investment in tourism provides a direct and tangible benefit and return to Alaska and to assess and implement measure to ensure that the tourist industry provides greater benefits to Alaskans including Alaska Native artists, Native business, corporations and tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the State of Alaska to engage with the tourist companies and cruise line to encourage them to initiate changes in their operations that provides for the use and sale of Alaska services and products in both its "on-board" and "on-shore" activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the State of Alaska to utilize a portion of the tourism related marketing to develop a publicity campaign promoting authentic Alaska Native handicrafts and artwork as well as other Alaska made products and to disparage visitors from purchasing souvenirs that violate the intellectual property of Alaska's Native people; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION AND CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST ALASKA VILLAGES

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT



ANCSA/Tribal



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 30

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA STATE GOVERNMENT TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR ALASKA’S TRIBES TO WAIVE THEIR SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY IN ORDER TO ACCESS STATE FUNDING
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Sovereign immunity is a preexisting inherent authority that the federal, state, and tribal governments can retain in order to protect them against suit and the potential loss of limited resources; and
- WHEREAS:** When Tribes waive their sovereign immunity they do so by carefully weighing the legal risks versus the benefits and draw clear language that narrows any waiver of immunity; and
- WHEREAS:** All requests to waive sovereign immunity should be well thought out and negotiated prior to any official action; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska currently requires that any Alaska Tribe sign a waiver of sovereign immunity in order to accept State funding; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has not made any attempts to work mutually with Tribes to discuss the requirement to waive immunity in order to access State funding; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s Tribes continually provide necessary services for their people and often times are the sole functional government within a community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska’s Tribes have been successfully administering federal grant funding, providing services and conducting business in Alaska professionally for generations; and
- WHEREAS:** Having access to State funding will only strengthen Alaska’s tribal governments and maximize resources in order to provide the best possible services to Alaska’s residents; and
- WHEREAS:** Many States throughout America work collaboratively with their Tribes in order to mutually agree upon issues that jointly affect them.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the State of Alaska immediately and permanently remove the requirement for Alaska’s Tribes to waive their sovereign immunity in order to access State funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska be urged to convene discussions with Alaska’s tribal leaders to mutually agree upon any decisions made that affect tribal people and tribal communities; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG-KANA ROUNDTABLE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 31

- TITLE:** REQUESTING THAT ALL STATE OF ALASKA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RECOGNIZE TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARDS ISSUED BY A FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBE AS A VALID PRIMARY FORM OF IDENTIFICATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Legal and valid forms of personal identification are necessary for travel, to obtain many goods and services and for legal purposes; and
- WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) no longer issues and not all Alaska Native residents have a federally issued BIA card, nor does this federally-issued form of identification contain all the items necessary to be accepted as a valid form of identification for some purposes; and
- WHEREAS:** Many rural post offices are not properly equipped to be able to issue valid primary forms of identification, such as passports; and
- WHEREAS:** Some rural Alaska communities do not have their own zip code or a federal post office to obtain all postal services, such as obtaining a passport; and
- WHEREAS:** Nearly all rural Alaska residents have significant challenges in obtaining a valid primary form of state identification, such as a driver's license or state identification card, due to lack of state services, remoteness, license fees, and transportation issues; and
- WHEREAS:** Some rural communities do not have federal or state offices that are able to issue valid primary forms of identification; and
- WHEREAS:** At least one State of Alaska program (LIHEAP) accepts a Tribal Identification Card as an acceptable form of identification; and
- WHEREAS:** Tribal governments are federally-recognized, equally accessible to most communities in Alaska, keep accurate tribal enrollment records and have been issuing valid primary forms of identification for their tribal members.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the State of Alaska have uniform policies and regulations which allow a tribally issued identification card be accepted as a valid form of identification when in the course of conducting State business a form of identification is required; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska unequivocally and clearly recognize tribes as governments per the findings of the 1999 and 2013 Rural Governance Commission.

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED



Other



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 32

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Legal Services Corporation's (ALSC's) twenty-seven lawyers in eleven offices around the state serve a population of over 168,000 Alaskans living below 200% of the poverty threshold, including more than 40,000 Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaskans potentially eligible for ALSC's services face approximately 65,000 legal problems each year and ALSC's current resources only stretch far enough to help about 6,300 people each year; and
- WHEREAS,** Each year ALSC must turn away over 600 qualified individuals with critical legal needs due to its limited resources; and
- WHEREAS:** The vast majority of ALSC's cases involve the basic human necessities of family safety, shelter, food, access to medical care, and income maintenance; and
- WHEREAS:** Although the May 2000 Alaska Supreme Court Access to Civil Justice Task Force Report recommended that ALSC be funded at \$5 million annually, ALSC's actual funding is far less than that at only \$3.6 million; and
- WHEREAS:** Several regional nonprofits including: Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and Maniilaq Association currently partner with ALSC to support local ALSC offices and staff in the communities of Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks and Kotzebue; and
- WHEREAS:** Several regional for-profits have provided significant financial and in-kind support to ALSC's regional offices: including Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, CIRI, Bering Straits Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Doyon, Limited, and the Sitnasuak Native Corporation; and
- WHEREAS:** Several tribal governments including the Central Council of Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope, the Nome Eskimo Community, and Orutsararmiut Native Council have also provided financial support for and partnered with ALSC; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska did make an appropriation to ALSC for FY 2014, approved by Governor Parnell, in the amount of \$550,000, but this amount is far less than needed to assure that all

Alaskans have access to equal justice and it is unclear whether this will be sustained in future fiscal years; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urges the Governor of Alaska to retain and increase the appropriation for ALSC in his proposed FY 2015 budget, and urges the Alaska Legislature to appropriate that funding, and urges Congress to award sufficient funding to the federal Legal Services Corporation to support Alaska Legal Services Corporation's mission of providing free legal services on vital issues to low income Alaskans.

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

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





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 33

**TITLE:** SUPPORTING PUBLIC STREET SIGNS IN ENGLISH AND OUR ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** the State of Alaska is built upon the heritage and lands of Alaska Native peoples and communities, and our languages are in need of revitalization to reverse language loss and outmoded policies from the past that discouraged the use of our heritage languages; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Native languages have significantly declined in contemporary use and need revitalization in modern ways to promote the increased use during everyday life in multiple settings to support use and speaking; and

**WHEREAS:** public street signs translated into our Alaska Native languages can be an important opportunity to promote usage and provide a means to preserve our cultures while also giving all citizens pride in our rich heritage; and

**WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has recognized Alaska Native languages as official languages of our state; and

**WHEREAS:** The State of Hawaii is an excellent model in the usage of their heritage languages for street names and public signs that encourages residents and visitors to use their languages.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the State of Alaska, Borough, and City Governments and Tribal Governments work together to have bilingual public, street and road signs in English and Alaska Native languages to express and preserve our identity, cultures and languages; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Alaskan communities also consider renaming streets in communities in the heritage language of the Native people with the aim to introducing visitors and future generations to come in all ways possible that will help promote appreciation for our languages and cultures; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 34

**TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE USE AND SPEAKING OF NATIVE LANGUAGES DURING THE AFN ANNUAL CONVENTION

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** AFN supports tribal values including knowledge of language; and

**WHEREAS:** AFN is aware that multiple efforts are needed to revitalize our Alaska Native languages and create opportunities for hearing our languages in contemporary settings; and

**WHEREAS:** AFN promotes the use of Alaska Native languages so that Elders and fluent speakers can clearly understand the issues that are presented to the delegates at the Annual Convention.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the AFN Annual Convention provide translators and translation equipment so that speakers and delegates can honor, use, speak and support our Native languages during the Convention to better understand issues that are submitted to the delegates during the Convention and promote the revitalization of our languages in today; and

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** REFER TO BOARD

**CONVENTION ACTION:** NONE





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 35

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERIES WITHIN THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Native Americans have traditionally served at the highest rate per capita out of any ethnic group; and

WHEREAS: Native Americans are proud of their veterans and their tradition of military service for their country; and

WHEREAS: As Natives Americans we wish to honor and respect the sacrifices that our Native Veterans made to defend our country; and

WHEREAS: Currently there are no cemeteries in Alaska which allow for both a traditional native burial ceremony and a military funeral; and

WHEREAS: There exist no Native American Veteran Cemeteries within the State of Alaska with which to honor Native Alaskan Veterans; and

WHEREAS: As Native Americans we wish to honor our veterans and to ensure that they are buried both with military honors and their traditional Native American Ceremonies; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Congressional delegation work with AFN and tribal leaders to support the creation of Native American Veterans cemeteries within the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the development of such cemeteries must be done in cooperation with the Alaska tribes and village organizations to ensure cultural relevance and design; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: MONTANA CREEK NATIVE ASSOCIATION INC.  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 - 37

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALASKA’S CURRENT SYSTEM OF SELECTION AND RETENTION OF STATE COURT JUDGES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Judicial Council (AJC) is an independent citizens’ commission established by the Alaska Constitution to screen applicants for judicial vacancies, nominate the most qualified applicants for appointment by the governor, evaluate the performance of sitting judges, recommend to voters whether judges should be retained, and conduct research related to the administration of justice in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Constitution provides that the AJC shall have seven members, including three attorneys appointed by the Alaska Bar Association, three non-attorneys appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature, and the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, who acts as the chairperson; and
- WHEREAS:** Through the AJC process the Alaska Constitution created a merit-based system for appointing judges while retaining accountability to the voters, and this Alaska system is widely considered to be one of the best state judicial selection processes in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN does not support any amendments that would change Alaska’s merit- based system for selecting judges into a partisan political process controlled by the governor and in the long term would inevitably diminish the quality and fairness of the state judiciary; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native Tribes, tribal organizations, and individual Alaska Natives subjected to Alaska’s civil or criminal judicial system are best served by an independent state judiciary, selected on merit.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives support Alaska’s current system of selection and retention of state court judges; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Federation of Natives opposes any attempt to amend the Alaska Constitution to alter the composition of the Alaska Judicial Council to politicize the judicial selection process; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Association, Aleut Corporation, CIRI  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 38

TITLE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM IN THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 64 passed on July 16, 2014, established the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, whose membership includes a member from the Alaska Native Justice Center, tasked with evaluating criminal justice practices; and

WHEREAS: There is also a recognized need to evaluate and reform the juvenile justice system, including the disproportionate number of Alaska Native Youth in the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS: It is important to ensure that victims, witnesses, parents, foster parents, guardians and juvenile offenders are treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and cultural sensitivity throughout all legal proceedings and are assured fair legal proceedings during which constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced; and

WHEREAS: Juveniles currently have no statutory right to a speedy trial or to a jury trial without notice restrictions, are shackled without cause in the courtroom, are held in solitary confinement for weeks and months when charged as adults, among other concerns; and

WHEREAS: The goals of improving the outcomes in the lives of Alaskan children in crisis, reducing juvenile recidivism, and improving public safety have not been fully realized.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention express their support for Alaska juvenile justice reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AFN requests that state political leaders support and actively work to reform the Alaska Juvenile Justice System; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS AND NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTZEBUE  
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED



## Endorsements



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 46

- TITLE:** RESOLUTION ENDORSING MARK BEGICH AS CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Senator Mark Begich is a born and raised Alaskan who, like his father before him, Congressman Nick Begich, understands the unique challenges of rural Alaska and fights to address them; and
- WHEREAS:** Senator Mark Begich, throughout his career of public service to our state as Anchorage assembly member, mayor of Anchorage, and Alaska’s U.S. Senator, has time and again shown his deep appreciation and respect for Native culture and traditional lifestyle; and
- WHEREAS:** Senator Mark Begich, during his time as Mayor, appointed the first-ever rural liaison to his administration to serve the needs of the growing Anchorage Alaska Native population. He also honored the first people of Cook Inlet by naming the Anchorage Convention Center the Dena’ina Center; and
- WHEREAS:** Senator Mark Begich travels extensively throughout rural Alaska, to both the hubs and surrounding villages, to hear directly from Alaska Native and rural people in their homelands; and
- WHEREAS:** Senator Mark Begich consistently advocates for Alaska Native hunting, fishing, and subsistence rights and passed his *Traditional Foods Nourishment Act* as part of the recent Farm Bill to promote Native rights and increase access to our traditional foods; and
- WHEREAS:** Senator Mark Begich opposes the Pebble Mine project that would jeopardize vital salmon fisheries in Bristol Bay; and
- WHEREAS:** Senator Mark Begich, as chair of the Commerce Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, advocated for and included tribes and subsistence users in his proposed reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). Senator Begich held multiple hearings throughout Alaska to hear directly from subsistence users, and as a result of his work, tribes and subsistence users will be included in MSA for the first time in the bill’s history; and
- WHEREAS:** Senator Mark Begich has been a top advocate to protect and enhance access to traditional and customary foods for all subsistence users. He championed increased whaling quotas for North

Slope communities and secured disaster relief for fishermen on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers after the king salmon decline, resulting in an initial payment of \$7.5 million; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich strongly defends our Second Amendment rights, which are critical to rural Alaskans who depend on guns for subsistence activities to feed our families; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich recognizes that rural Alaska is ground zero for climate change. He has introduced legislation to study the effect of coastal erosion on Arctic communities and the needs of Arctic residents as they adapt to climate change. In addition, Senator Begich has been a strong advocate for Alaska communities on the international stage to make sure our needs are being heard on a global scale; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich condemns the Supreme Court's decision to gut the *Voting Rights Act* and supports restoration of the law's vital protections to make sure all Alaskans, no matter what language they speak or where they live, can exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich introduced legislation, *The Native Voting Rights Act of 2014*, to defend the voting rights of Alaska Native and Native American people by protecting rural polling locations, requiring translation of important election information into Native languages, and affording equal treatment for tribal identification; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich secured a permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Service, the first reauthorization in over twenty years. He also secured historic full funding for IHS Contract Support Costs to Alaska Native tribal facilities this year, including back payments totaling almost half of a billion dollars thus far; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich has successfully advocated for Joint Venture Construction Projects between the IHS and Alaska Native Tribal Health Organizations, which has resulted in new hospitals and clinics in Barrow, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Kenai, and Copper Center; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich has led the fight to defended the 8(a) program, which provides important contracts to Alaska Native Corporations that create jobs and sustain economic growth across the state; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich successfully persuaded the Senate Appropriations Committee this year to include an amendment forcing the Department of Defense, for the first time ever, to provide information on the chilling effect section 811 has had on 8(a) entities, including Alaska Native Corporations. This is the first step towards Senator Begich's goal of fully repealing section 811; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich took action for rural public safety by introducing the *Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act of 2014* and amendments to support local authority to prosecute misdemeanors in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich included in the *Safe Families* bill a full repeal of Section 910 of the *Violence Against Women Act*, which unfairly excluded Alaska Tribes from expanded jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich advances Alaska Native self-determination by supporting the option to allow Alaska Native and their Tribal Governments to take land-into-trust; and

- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich utilized his position on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to ensure the United States Postal Service maintains bypass mail and standard rates for rural Alaska, which are critical to our communities. Senator Begich has helped protect \$76 million in annual subsidies for bypass mail despite senators from both parties attempting to roll back the program; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich has fought to lower energy prices in villages and rural Alaska. He has a plan to provide \$5,000 in tax credits for residents of areas with extremely high energy costs who are looking to increase the efficiency of their home heating and cooling; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich was the only member of the Alaska delegation to vote for the *American Reinvestment and Recovery Act*, which brought \$2.3 billion to Alaska. The *Recovery Act* provided much need funds for infrastructure build out in rural Alaska, such as the new hospital in Nome, the Kotzebue breakwater, and the Yakutat Senior Center; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich fought for important programs to promote cleaner and more efficient energy in the *Recovery Act*, which has brought \$92.2 million to Alaska communities, including over \$18 million for home weatherization assistance; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich recognizes that 82% of Alaska communities are off the road system, and has protected vital transportation routes and services by defending the Essential Air Service program, which provides \$14.7 million in annual subsidies to Alaska air carriers; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich helped deliver over \$180 million in improvements to rural broadband to provide education and health services and encourage small business growth; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich secured \$100 million over ten years to plan and develop remote and subsistence harbors, including a deepwater Arctic port, by gaining unanimous support in the Senate for his amendment to the *Water Resources Development Act of 2013*; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich has introduced the *Alaska Adjacent Zone Revenue Sharing Act* to give Alaska the same share of oil production revenues that some southern states have received since 2006, before Begich was elected. The bill would, for the first time, allow tribes to share in these revenues along with the state of Alaska, Alaska Native Corporations, and municipalities. If his bill had been enacted in 2006, Alaska would have received over \$900 million already; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich promotes and protects benefits for all military service members, retirees, veterans, and their families. Senator Begich successfully secured reinstatement of pension payments for members of the World War II-era Alaska Territorial Guard and passed an increase to veterans' benefits to keep up with the cost of living; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich has improved the quality of the VA hospitals in rural Alaska and facilitated 30 historic agreements to allow veterans to receive local care without having to travel to Anchorage or Seattle; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich secured important access to Space-A seats on military planes for our National Guard and Guard Reserve members and their families, rolling back a policy that denied them the same privilege as active-duty soldiers; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich co-sponsored the *Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act*,

which if passed would create a grant program to fund Native language educational programs; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich has been a strong supporter of the Head Start Program, which provides important educational day care opportunities for young Alaskans, and secured an annual increase of \$1.7 million for the Head Start program in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich helped secure a waiver for Alaska Schools from the *No Child Left Behind Act*, a bill causing substantial negative impacts on rural students, especially Alaska Native students; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich has been a stalwart advocate for increased rural education resources, introducing his *Rural Educator and American Community Housing Act* to provide \$50 million to build housing and improve living arrangements for educators in rural areas; and

WHEREAS: Having two Alaska Senators seated on the Appropriations Committee and the Indian Affairs Committee ensures Alaska Native priorities are heard and addressed on a national level. Having two senators from Alaska in each of the major parties ensures that Alaska's, and especially Alaskan Natives', needs are being heard by congressional leadership and the White House no matter which party is in charge; and

WHEREAS: Senator Mark Begich is currently 63rd in seniority in the Senate and after this election, he will rise to 55th in seniority. This ensures that Alaska's delegation to Washington, D.C., will have the clout it needs to fight and deliver for Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives endorse Mark Begich for re-election to the office of United States Senator; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: NONE

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14 – 47

- TITLE:** RESOLUTION ENDORSING BILL WALKER AND BYRON MALLOTT FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Byron Mallott and Bill Walker were both candidates for the position of Governor of the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** In early September 2014, Walker and Mallott made a historic decision to join forces to create the “Unity Ticket” as a strategic initiative to secure the highest political offices in the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Byron Mallott is well-known for his lifelong commitment to addressing the issues of importance to the Alaska Native Community, and Bill Walker has shown a commitment to the economic and energy needs of the State of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** Byron Mallott is a former President of the Alaska Federation of Natives, the former Director of the Alaska Permanent Fund, the former President of the First Alaskans Institute, the former President of Sealaska Corporation, the former Mayor of both Juneau and Yakutat, Alaska, and has held many other important positions that have impacted the lives of Alaskans and Alaska Natives; and
- WHEREAS:** Bill Walker has also made a commitment to economic stability and sustainability for all of Alaska, and has expressed his support for the needs of our rural Alaskan villages, particularly in the areas of affordable energy, education and subsistence; and
- WHEREAS:** Bill Walker and Byron Mallott have identified a clear alignment on issues of importance to Alaska, and will work together on all issues of importance to Alaska and the Alaska Native community, including the economy, energy, education, public safety, and subsistence; and
- WHEREAS:** Bill Walker and Byron Mallott have committed to having a true partnership as the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Alaska, despite the different titles that each will hold in the State government; and
- WHEREAS:** In the past, the Alaska Federation of Natives has endorsed candidates for statewide public office.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that the Alaska Federation of Natives appreciates the commitment of Candidates Bill Walker and Byron Mallott to put Alaska First and to make efforts to address those issues of importance to the Alaska Native community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby endorse Bill Walker and Byron Mallott for the positions of Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Alaska; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION AND CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA  
INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST ALASKA VILLAGES

BOARD RESOLUTION: NONE

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT



## Elders and Youth



Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14-50

TITLE: Alaska Native Youth Homelessness

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: While youth are the highest homeless demographic in Alaska, Alaska Native youth comprise 40% of the homeless youth compared to 33% of Caucasian youth; and

WHEREAS: Almost all Alaska homeless shelters focus their efforts on adults, thereby leaving many youth without a safe living environment; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Native Federation of Natives request that Alaska Native Corporations, private non-profits, tribal governments, Alaska Housing Authorities, and the AFN Directors work together to create a task force with youth to identify unmet needs, funding opportunities, and help build capacity for youth shelters; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: 2014 Elders & Youth Conference

COMMITTEE ACTION: AFN BOARD- PASS TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT AS AMENDED





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14-51

**TITLE:** Commercialized Marijuana Harmful to Youth & Native Community

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

**WHEREAS:** The use of marijuana has been found to have negative physical, mental, behavioral and social health consequences, particularly in our youth, negatively affecting their academic and social success in our communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Alaska youth are faced with this pressure at an early age and it is commonly perceived as harmless and Alaska already struggles with some of the highest rates of substance abuse and suicide; and

**WHEREAS:** Ballot measure 2 would legalize, commercialize, and industrialize recreational marijuana in the State of Alaska for adults 21 and over, legalizing not only marijuana but also potent and dangerous chemical concentrates and drug-infused edibles that appeal to children; and

**WHEREAS:** The legalization will have detrimental consequences for Alaska Native individuals, families, and communities, specifically youth and Elders; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Native Federation of Natives that this body oppose the passage of the initiative to legalize recreational marijuana in Alaska; and

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** 2014 Elders & Youth Conference  
**COMMITTEE ACTION:** AFN BOARD- PASS TO FLOOR  
**CONVENTION ACTION:** ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14-52

TITLE: Helping Demystify and Clarify Elder Care Services

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Too often Elders are not able to access the assisted living, short or long term, or therapeutic care services they require because the process is so difficult, confusing, or creates penalties that are unnecessary or unjust; and

WHEREAS: When Elders own lands, materials or financial resources that they have a cultural obligation to or they accumulated to sustain them in their elderly years these resources are often used against them and create barriers to access the services they need due to being “over-income”, even if only by a few dollars.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Native Federation of Natives encourage Alaska Native organizations to educate families about existing protections (ie. Miller Trusts), to pursue amendments to existing law, and propose new ways to protect Alaska Native Elders and their cultural properties (lands, materials, and the like); and

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

SUBMITTED BY: 2014 Elders & Youth Conference

COMMITTEE ACTION: AFN BOARD- PASS TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT





Alaska Federation of Natives  
2014 Annual Convention  
Resolution 14-53

TITLE: Restore Native Names to Native Youth Olympic Games

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Native games of endurance have been around since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS: Native games had original names in the indigenous languages from across the state; and

WHEREAS: Restoring these original names will inspire Native youth to learn more of their languages; Native knowledge embedded in concepts about our lands, animals, behavior patterns; and the interaction between our peoples and our lands; and

WHEREAS: When they learn it, they become inclined to protect and perpetuate it.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2014 Annual Convention of the Alaska Native Federation of Natives that the renaming of these games into Native languages, as appropriate for each cultural group or in respect to the host area, should be implemented by the people, organizations, and hosts of these games, and the use of the Native names encouraged amongst all athletes, coaches, volunteers, audience members, and community members that play, watch, or host these Native games; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: 2014 Elders & Youth Conference

COMMITTEE ACTION: AFN BOARD- PASS TO FLOOR

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPT

