

**2007 AFN CONVENTION**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**OCTOBER 27, 2007**

**2007 AFN CONVENTION  
DRAFT RESOLUTIONS  
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## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-01

TITLE: HONORING STANTON KATCHATAG FOR DEDICATING HIS LIFE TO ADVOCATING FOR ALASKA NATIVES

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

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

WHEREAS: Stanton fought for many issues during his life, but most of all he fought for tribal rights, tribal sovereignty, and subsistence; and

WHEREAS: Stanton believed in the power of early education and was a strong supporter of Head Start; and

WHEREAS: Stanton was a leader who listen to the needs of his people and community and then advocated for change; and

WHEREAS: Stanton was an Elder statesmen that represented his culture and people with unwavering eloquence and integrity often in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS: Stanton served on the RurAL CAP Board of Directors with dedication and distinction for 15 years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN recognizes and honors Stanton Katchatag for his lifetime of accomplishments and his dedication to Alaska Natives' subsistence way of life.

SUBMITTED BY: RurAL CAP

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



# **BOARD RESOLUTIONS**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-02

TITLE: WELCOMING HOME THE 1st, 2nd, AND 3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION 297TH  
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

WHEREAS: The Alaska Natives, on a per capita basis, have one of the highest, if not the highest number of their members serving in active duty in the U. S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Natives also serve in great numbers in the Alaska Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS: The members of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 297<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard were called up to active duty in October of 2006; and

WHEREAS: These members of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 297<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard were deployed to Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq, under the Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF); served to protect this nation honorably; and

WHEREAS: These members of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 297<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard who were deployed to overseas have returned safely from their deployment under OIF and many of them have returned to their villages throughout Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby extend their gratitude to the returning members of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 297<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates of the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby extends their deepest and warmest welcome to the returning members of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 297<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard and wish them the best in all their future endeavors.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED BY UNAMIOUS  
CONSENT



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-03

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND REGIONAL BODIES

WHEREAS: The traditional harvest of migratory birds and their eggs by Alaska Natives is necessary to the subsistence way of life in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The 1916 treaty between the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) and the 1936 treaty with Mexico prohibited the taking of migratory game birds between March 10 and September 1; and

WHEREAS: The United States implemented the treaties, as well as those with Japan (1972) and Russia (1976), through the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), which the Courts interpreted as prohibiting the Federal Government from permitting any harvest of migratory birds that would be inconsistent with the migratory bird treaties; and

WHEREAS: To remedy this prohibition the United States after many years of negotiation adopted Protocols amending both the Canada and Mexico treaties to recognize the traditional subsistence harvest of migratory birds by the indigenous inhabitants of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The protocol provides that any regulation of the subsistence harvest “shall be consistent with the customary and traditional uses” of migratory birds “by such indigenous inhabitants,” and that indigenous inhabitants of Alaska “shall be afforded an effective and meaningful role” in “the development and implementation of regulations affecting the non-wasteful taking of migratory birds and the collection of eggs” through their participation on co-management bodies; and

WHEREAS: In 2000, the Fish and Wildlife Service established the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, and 12 regional management bodies but neither the Council nor the regional management bodies have been adequately funded to fulfill their respective responsibilities under the Treaty; and

WHEREAS: While the regional management bodies are expected to fulfill their responsibilities under their contracts, their annual budgets have arbitrarily been cut by the Agency, making it impossible for many of the regional management bodies to fulfill their responsibilities; and

WHEREAS: The lack of funding also makes it impossible for the regional management bodies to fulfill their responsibilities in the collection of harvest information on a regular basis.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2007 AFN Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges the Congress and the Secretaries of State and Interior to support the adequate implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty and its co-management councils by seeking a treaty-implementation line-item, at appropriate levels in the budget of either the Interior Department or the Department of State.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN SUBSISTENCE WORKGROUP AND AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-04

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF OUR PEOPLES' FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR  
SUBSISTENCE WAY OF LIFE

WHEREAS: Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering have provided food and its by-products to Alaska Natives for thousands of years and continue to be practiced in today's villages in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Subsistence constitutes not only the nutritional, but also the spiritual and cultural, foundation of Alaska's indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's population has increased significantly since Congress attempted to protect our subsistence way of life in 1980, with the passage of Title VIII of ANILCA; and

WHEREAS: Competition for utilization of fish and game resources has become a bitterly divisive issue in Alaska's public life, pitting urban and rural areas, as well as Natives and non-Natives, against one another; and

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

WHEREAS: When neither the State nor the Secretary of the Interior moved to fulfill Congress' expectation that our subsistence way of life would be protected, we petitioned Congress for systematic, comprehensive statutory protections; and

WHEREAS: In Title VIII of ANILCA (1980), Congress enacted protections for the physical, economic, traditional and cultural existence of Alaska's villages by giving a rural priority to local subsistence users on most federal lands and waters in the state; and

WHEREAS: In the same law, Congress offered the State of Alaska the right to continue managing subsistence on all lands (state, Native, private, and federal) if it would enact a state law giving the same priority to rural residents; and

WHEREAS: The State passed such a law in 1986 and was in compliance with federal law until late 1989, when the Alaska Supreme Court threw out the State's rural priority as a violation of the Alaska Constitution; and

WHEREAS: Since 1990 - under five governors, during 18 regular and six special legislative sessions, and under intense pressure from competing user groups - the State has refused to allow a vote on a constitutional amendment that would allow a rural priority back into state law; and

WHEREAS: The result has been dual management, in which the Federal Subsistence Board regulates subsistence with a rural priority on federal lands/waters; and the State Boards of Fisheries and Game regulate subsistence on state, Native and private lands/waters under an “all Alaskans are Subsistence Users” policy that provides no priority; and

WHEREAS: Although, over the objections of the Native community, the FSB showed its good faith by incorporating into federal regulations all state subsistence regulations in place in 1990, the State of Alaska, through its Boards of Fisheries and Game, has become so dedicated to protecting sport and commercial users from the resource competition of subsistence users that it now provides little if any protection of the subsistence way of life; and

WHEREAS: Since 2005, the State, in concert with the Bush administration and anti-subsistence groups, has engaged in a well-organized and well-funded campaign to subvert the FSB’s implementation of the federal subsistence law; and

WHEREAS: The measures taken by Congress in Title VIII of ANILCA are slowly being weakened to the point at which many of our people are at risk of losing their ability to feed their children from their traditional hunting and fishing territory; and

WHEREAS: Examples of this anti-subsistence, anti-Native campaign include:

- giving the State a non-voting seat on the Federal Subsistence Board and allowing the state representative to participate fully in deliberations on proposals before the FSB;
- conducting many FSB deliberations on regulations, procedures and policy issues in secret executive sessions, where the public, especially Alaska Natives, cannot see or hear what is being done;
- raising objections and lawsuits against any FSB regulation that the State does not like, usually claiming lack of sufficient standards or evidence;
- dropping villages from federal protections by finding that they are non-rural or that they have not proved customary and traditional subsistence uses;
- weakening the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), (which have provided grassroots input to the FSB on regulations for 17 years) by: (1) a regulatory change requiring that 30 per cent of the members of each RAC represent sport and commercial interests; (2) proposed policy changes that would weaken their advisory role; (3) refusing to give deference to RAC recommendations, as required by Title VIII of ANILCA;
- refusing to fund RACs adequately so they can obtain the information and expertise needed for making recommendations to the FSB;
- requesting the Secretary of the Interior to alter the policies and processes by which federal management has worked since 1990;

- allowing transporters and big game guides, largely unregulated access to traditional Native hunting areas, causing hardships, disruption in caribou migratory routes, and crowding subsistence users out of necessary hunts; and

WHEREAS: The State Boards of Fisheries and Game are imposing more and more restrictions on subsistence users who hunt and fish on state lands and waters - threatening the survival of communities on the road system; and

WHEREAS: Examples of the State's actions on state, Native and private lands are most evident in the Copper River Basin and along the road system, and include:

- a proposal to create a non-subsistence use area encompassing all road-connected areas in Game Management Units 13 and 11 (Copper River);
- the imposition of a cash income criterion for moose and caribou Tier II permits in Game Management Unit 13);
- a proposal to create a "super exclusive" subsistence area for the Nelchina Caribou hunt in GMU 13, the effects of which would confine subsistence users to a smaller hunting area, limit their ability to hunt anywhere else, and open their traditional hunting grounds to sport hunters;
- imposing restrictions on Tier II permits issued for hunts in the Copper River Basin and along the road system that are discriminatory – in that they are not imposed on Tier II permits issued in other parts of the state and are even more restrictive in some cases than the restrictions imposed on sport hunters (e.g., salvage requirements, antler restrictions, burdensome reporting requirements, prohibitions on the use of ATVs and airplanes, and limits on proxy hunting); and

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

WHEREAS: If the State's effort succeeds, the resulting lack of food (combined with few jobs, little cash income and very high costs of living) will make it impossible for most Native families to live in their home villages - and that will cause some of the poorest and most traditional communities in the United States to disappear through out-migration; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of these growing threats to our way of life, delegates to the 2006 AFN Convention adopted Resolution 06-01, calling on AFN to oppose all actions that weaken federal protections and to develop a proactive strategy for protecting subsistence for succeeding generations; and

WHEREAS: We recognize that the statewide Native community needs to fund AFN's effort to defend subsistence, since we cannot expect public resources to take on this task; and

WHEREAS: AFN set up a Subsistence Work Group, which developed a pro-active strategy, established a bare-bones budget to implement the strategy and set up a Subsistence Defense Fund to raise the funds needed; and

WHEREAS: To date, AFN has raised less than half the funds needed to support an effective subsistence defense strategy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN use all available political, economic and legal resources to defeat the State's efforts to undermine federal management - and that the entire Native community, including ANCSA regional and village corporations, contribute to the AFN Subsistence Defense Fund so that AFN can implement an effective, proactive strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture are urged to take the following steps to protect our way of life:

- resist the State of Alaska's efforts to undermine Title VIII of ANILCA;
- increase funding for RACs, and direct a substantial part of such funding to an Alaska Native Subsistence Commission to ensure that Alaska Natives have a meaningful role in managing their subsistence way of life;
- increase funding for the Partners' monitoring program, and institute reforms in that program such that Native partners have more control over the projects funded under the program;
- revisit policies for determining rural status and "customary and traditional uses," so that subsistence-dependent communities will not lose their protections or have to spend precious resources to establish customary and traditional uses;
- honor the federal government's trust responsibility to Alaska Natives;
- institute cooperative agreements with Native organizations under section 809 of ANILCA that will ensure that Alaska Natives are meaningfully involved as partners in all aspects of federal subsistence management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that President Bush is urged to issue an Executive Order directing the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to interpret Title VIII of ANILCA in the way it was originally intended and further require the FSB, under the authority of section 809, to enter into cooperative agreements with Alaska Native Organizations to administer the RACs and to gather necessary scientific and traditional knowledge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the U.S. House Resources Committee hold oversight hearings in all regions on the subsistence crisis in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor meet with the Alaska Native leadership to discuss possible solutions to the subsistence impasse, the State's role in undermining federal management, the illegal and discriminatory practice of imposing restrictions on tier II permit holders in Units 13 and 11, the terrible precedent of imposing a cash income criterion for tier II hunting permits, the Joint Boards push to put whole areas of Alaska off-limits to subsistence harvesting through the creation of nonsubsistence use areas along the road system, and the need to have Alaska Native representation on the State Boards of Game and Fisheries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to utilize Title VIII's (807) enforcement section be pursued for reasons of development conservation and sustained yield for salmon species; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN staff shall continue to work on the attached "Recommendations of the AFN Subsistence Leadership Forum and Workshop on Maintaining our Traditional Way of Life" that were made part of AFN Resolution 06-01.

SUBMITTED BY: THE SUBSISTENCE WORK GROUP AND AFN  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED





## RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

4. Reform the Federal Subsistence Board. Prohibit the Board from holding

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-05

- TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF ADEQUATE, RECURRING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COUNCIL FOR MARINE MAMMALS (IPCoMM) AND ITS MEMBER ALASKA NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS (ANOs) TO FULFILL THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 119 OF THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT (MMPA)
- WHEREAS: IPCoMM is a statewide coalition of tribal marine mammal commissions/councils and other Alaska Native organizations formed for the purpose of identifying and addressing marine mammal issues of common concern; and
- WHEREAS: IPCoMM works to ensure the retention of the rights of Alaska Natives under Section 101(b) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to take marine mammals for subsistence or handicraft purposes, and to promote the sustained health of marine mammals; and
- WHEREAS: Section 119 of the MMPA authorizes agreements between ANOs and the federal agencies in order to conserve marine mammals and to provide for the co-management of their subsistence uses by Alaska Natives, and authorizes funding for the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior each year to carry out these purposes; and
- WHEREAS: In the past, The Department of Interior has included funding for ANO co-management activities in its budget requests for the USFWS for the species under its jurisdiction, however, in 2007 two-thirds of the ANO funding was used to offset fixed cost increases in the agency budget; and
- WHEREAS: The Department of Commerce has never included funding in its budget for marine mammal co-management activities, despite the express authorization for such funding in section 119 of the MMPA; and
- WHEREAS: As a consequence, the Alaska Congressional delegation has been called upon on an annual basis to ensure funding is appropriated for these activities through congressional earmarks, a process that does not ensure sustainable, recurring funding; and
- WHEREAS: Congress cut the USFWS FY2007 budget, causing the agency to significantly reduce funding to the ANOs engaged in co-management activities with respect to polar bear, sea otters and walrus, causing some of the ANOs to forego planned co-management activities during 2007; and
- WHEREAS: The agencies acknowledge that IPCoMM fulfills a vital role in the statewide management of marine mammals by bringing all of the ANOs together with the agencies on a regular basis to address policy issues that affect all ANOs, including the reauthorization of the MMPA, international treaty implementation, and other issues concerning the conservation and subsistence use of marine mammals; and

WHEREAS: Despite the important role that IPCoMM plays in the implementation of Section 119 of the MMPA, neither USFWS nor NMFS has included funding for IPCoMM in their annual appropriations request; and

WHEREAS: Some members of IPCoMM who are engaged in the co-management of marine mammals are either not funded at all or are severely under-funded, making it very difficult to participate in a meaningful way in the co-management of subsistence uses of marine mammals as was Congress' intent in Section 119; and

WHEREAS: It is critical for the management of marine mammals in Alaska that both IPCoMM and its member ANOs receive adequate and recurring federal funding on an annual basis in order to fulfill the congressional goals embodied in Section 119 of the MMPA; and

WHEREAS: IPCoMM and AFN have continuously, through several sessions of Congress, urged the Congress to reauthorize the MMPA, and to include the package of amendments proposed by IPCoMM and its agency partners, which would strengthen Section 119 by providing for management before depletion and would increase funding for co-management activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 AFN Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN urge Congress to reauthorize the MMPA and to include the package of amendments to Section 119 proposed by IPCoMM and its partner agencies, including the suggested levels of authorized funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that both the Department of Commerce and the Department of Interior include in their annual budget requests funding for IPCoMM and its member ANOs for marine mammal co-management activities which include the collection and analyzing of harvest data, monitoring the harvest of marine mammals for subsistence uses, conducting bio-sampling, participating in other marine mammal research and providing education and outreach on marine mammal management.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN SUBSISTENCE WORKGROUP AND AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-06

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF CONTINUED SUPPORT OF AMENDING THE ALASKA NATIVE ALLOTMENT ACT AND THE ALASKA NATIVE VIETNAM VETERANS ALLOTMENT ACT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives continues to support the rights of Alaska Tribal citizens to receive title to land under the 1906 Alaska Native Allotment Act and the 1998 Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act; and

WHEREAS: The Tribal working group consisting of 150 federally recognized Tribal governments and nonprofit organizations in Alaska, including Sitka Tribe, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Chilkat Indian Village, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes, Inupiat Community of the Arctic North Slope, Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Realty Consortium, Maniilaq Association, Bristol Bay Native Association, Kawerak, Inc., and Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, and Alaska Legal Services Corporation, have drafted technical amendments to allow more Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to apply for and receive native allotments and to reopen allotment cases rejected and closed under the decision in *Shields v. United States*, 698 F.2d 987 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1983); and

WHEREAS: The amendments to the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act of 1998, are necessary because this law contains too many restrictions that very few veterans are eligible and under the current Act very little land in Alaska is available to veterans; and

WHEREAS: The amendments to reopen the allotments closed under the decision in *Shields* is necessary to rectify the unfair distribution of allotments in Southeast Alaska that resulted because of the rule that applicants must personally use the allotment land when most of the land in southeast Alaska was withdrawn by 1909 for the Tongass National Forest which encompasses almost 17 million acres; and

WHEREAS: Legislation amending the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act was introduced in 2007 into the U.S. House of Representatives as H.R. 3350 but this legislation does not include reopening the allotments closed under *Shields* and no similar legislation has been introduced into the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature unanimously voiced its support of amending the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act and reopening the *Shields* allotments with House Joint Resolution number 27 which passed and was sent to Congress in 2006; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN requests the Alaska Congressional Delegation to introduce legislation to amend the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1998, and the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans Allotment Act in order to allow more Native allotments for Native Vietnam veterans and to take actions that would move such legislation forward to a vote in 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN 2007 Delegates unanimously support the passage of all Alaska Native Vietnam Veteran Allotment for adjudication on Tongass/NPRA lands under the applicants of the Alaska Native Vietnam who has applied under the provisional Allotment Act of 1906.

SUBMITTED BY:                   AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION:   PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-07

TITLE: A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND

WHEREAS: Alaska possesses vast amounts of renewable energy resources in the form of wind, geothermal, biomass, solar, tidal, wave and hydro power; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Legislature established the Alaska Energy Policy Task force in 2003 to review and analyze the state's current and long term energy needs. The Task Force found that one of Alaska's long term energy needs is to "identify and evaluate long term fuel resources" and recommends that the State "increase the proportion of renewable energy as long term fuel sources"; and

WHEREAS: There is virtually no fuel cost associated with renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS: Renewable energy technology development promotes both industry and job creation; and

WHEREAS: Community facilities such as electrical plants, water & sewer services and health clinics use diesel fuel. Rural Alaskan residents are dependent on diesel fuel to generate heat homes along with high cost of energy, it impacts the economic conditions. The State of Alaska's Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, "Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska, June 2007 Update" reported the average price of home heating fuel in the Western Alaska for 2007 at \$4.73 which is up from 2006; and

WHEREAS: There are numerous agencies dealing with energy assistance, federal, state and international specialists. We urge the State to appoint a cabinet level position to coordinate and centralize resources to effectively solve the long term energy crisis; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that AFN request to our Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Office of the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to address the energy needs of Alaska families by:

1. Creating a Renewable Energy Fund to finance new utility scale renewable energy projects in Alaska. The Fund shall be funded by general appropriations. The fund shall be distinct from funds administered by Alaska Energy Authority;

2. Within the Fund, creating a program to conduct energy research, development, demonstration & application;
3. Create a cabinet level position to coordinate efforts and centralize state and federal resources to solve the long term energy crisis; and,
4. Within the Fund, create a “revolving loan program” to assist individuals, organizations, businesses and government agencies in purchasing and installing alternative energy products.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-08

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CREATION OF A STATE FUNDED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska's Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) is updating the State's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to ensure the plan meets the State's needs through the year 2030 and to ensure it complies with SAFETE-LU to be approved in December 2007; and

WHEREAS: Federal funds are the primary source for construction and repair of Alaska's Highway Transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: The amount of federal funds available to states has been flat and there are projections that the Highway Trust Fund will not allow for projects in 2009 unless federal taxes are increased; and

WHEREAS: Alaska is one of only two states that does not have a state funded capital transportation program; and

WHEREAS: The purchasing power of federal funds has declined due to inflation and ever increasing federal requirements and the high cost of construction; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska's transportation infrastructure is aging faster than repairs can be made at present funding levels. Alaska is experiencing declining road conditions such as increased congestion, pot holes and ruts are not being repaired, and dust has become a health and safety hazard; and

WHEREAS: Climate change in Alaska is resulting in damage to roads due to permafrost thawing and increased flooding; and

WHEREAS: poor road conditions and increased congestion lead to higher accident rates; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Highway program funds are not sufficient to meet the basic needs of Alaska's citizens. With the projected funds received the proposed State LRTP number one priority will be to focus on the National Highway System, leaving no funding for Alaska Highway Systems and local roads; and

WHEREAS: This priority will put a disadvantage on rural Alaska, which has many unmet needs in the form of transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: using state funds will result in less expensive projects being constructed more quickly; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges the State of Alaska to develop a state funded transportation program of \$150 million annually or more that will result in a long-term sustainable State Funded Transportation Program to address the Alaska Highway System and local roads unmet needs.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-09

TITLE: EXTENDING PROTECTION OF SUBSISTENCE HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS TO NATIVE LANDS

WHEREAS: In passing the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), Congress authorized village and regional Native corporations to select lands surrounding Native Villages fully understanding that such lands would be selected in large part for their value to harvest subsistence resources; and,

WHEREAS: Congress did not explicitly protect hunting and fishing rights for Alaska Natives when enacting ANCSA in 1971, but made its intent clear through legislative history that the Secretary of the Interior was to take any action necessary to protect those rights; and,

WHEREAS: The Secretary failed to follow through on Congress' promises in ANCSA and Congress found it necessary to explicitly address and protect hunting and fishing rights for Alaska Natives when enacting the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA); and,

WHEREAS: ANILCA originally included a priority for Alaska Natives for subsistence uses; and,

WHEREAS: Congress changed the "Native priority" to a "rural priority" in Title VIII of ANILCA largely because of the State of Alaska's position that it would not be able to administer a "Native priority" due to constraints in the State's Constitution; and,

WHEREAS: Congress enacted ANILCA with a "rural priority" assuming, based on the position the State took before Congress, that the State would assume management of subsistence uses in Alaska, and that the rural priority would apply to all lands and waters in Alaska, including on all Native corporation lands and Native allotments; and,

WHEREAS: The Alaska Supreme Court declared the rural priority unconstitutional in McDowell v. State and the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture took over subsistence management on federal public lands, but the State Boards of Fish and Game retained management on all State lands including Native corporation lands and Native allotments; and,

WHEREAS: The State Boards of Fish and Game have consistently failed to provide for the hunting and fishing needs and opportunities of Alaska Natives on State and Native lands when the subsistence priority is most necessary because of competition for subsistence resources by sport, commercial users, transporters and guides; and,

WHEREAS: Under State management, Alaska Natives increasingly find themselves unable to meaningfully use their Native corporation lands and allotments for subsistence hunting and fishing, for example:

1. Native Villages have been surrounded by urban areas and are classified as non-rural and these Villages have also been classified by the State as located within a non-subsistence use areas, consequently Alaska Natives residing in these areas are denied all opportunity to use Native lands for subsistence;
2. all tribes on the Kenai Peninsula, even tribes that are classified as rural, are denied the opportunity to use their Native lands for subsistence uses because the State Boards have decided that all State, private and Native lands on the Kenai Peninsula are located within a non-subsistence use area;
3. the State Joint Board recently considered creating a non-subsistence use area for large parts of Game Management Unit (GMU) 13 that includes the traditional hunting territory of the Ahtna people, the proposal failed by a single vote, and similar non-subsistence use area proposals are sure to surface again and again until some Alaska Joint Board eventually declares this territory, including all Native lands in the area, off limits to subsistence;
4. the State Board frequently adopt restrictive hunting and fishing regulations that apply to Native lands and that do not provide sufficient opportunity and bag limits to meet Native subsistence needs;
5. the State Board of Game recently passed an income test that applies to tier II hunting on State and Native lands in the Ahtna region which equates the Native traditional way of life to welfare, and which denied many elders, including Ahtna's Traditional Chief, from getting a tier II permit to hunt caribou and moose in GMU 13;
6. the State Board of Game passed a regulation forbidding tier II subsistence moose or caribou hunters in GMU 13 from hunting for moose or caribou in any other area of the State, and for Ahtna people this meant that a tier II hunter could not hunt on Native lands located near the Villages in GMUs 11 and 12 even if the hunter did not get a moose or caribou in GMU 13; and,

WHEREAS: It is a great injustice that under State law all Alaska residents, even those without custom, tradition or a cultural or nutritional need for subsistence, can hunt and fish for subsistence on all Native and State lands, yet Alaska Natives find themselves often denied the opportunity under State management to satisfy their hunting and fishing needs on their own Native lands; and

WHEREAS: It is essential that Alaska Native organizations be fully involved in the management of Native lands for subsistence uses by Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Native corporations and allotment owners cannot protect their lands from trespass by hunters and fishermen because State and Federal laws are ineffective and because of lack of enforcement by State and Federal officials; and

WHEREAS: In passing Title VIII of ANILCA Congress found and declared in Section 801 of the Act that the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses “by Alaska Natives on Native lands is essential to Native physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence”.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN shall work to enact a federal law that will extend the priority and protection for subsistence uses in Title VIII of ANILCA to Native allotments and to lands selected and conveyed to Native corporations, that the subsistence priority for Native lands shall be a priority for Alaska Natives, and that subsistence management of Native lands shall be through co-management with Alaska Native organizations; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a federal law shall clearly and explicitly include language that extending Native hunting and fishing rights to Native lands shall in no way effect or diminish the control and authority of Native corporations and allotment owners to develop or otherwise utilize their lands; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a federal law shall allow Native corporations and allotment owners authority and opportunity to opt in or out of any and all provisions of the law and provide funds to tribes and village corporations for trespass on corporation lands and native allotments; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN shall work to include in such a federal law increased protection for trespass on Native lands and additional authority to enforce trespass claims.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-10

- TITLE: REQUEST THE GOVERNOR TO CALL A RETROSPECTIVE SESSION TO REVIEW THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON RURAL GOVERNANCE AND EMPOWERMENT
- WHEREAS: Tribes exist in Alaska with authority to govern, and recognition and support of tribes by the State of Alaska is essential to the success of Alaska's system of governance; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Natives maintain a special relationship with the United States whereby the federal government enters into government-to-government discussions in matters affecting tribes; and
- WHEREAS: All rural Alaskans must have governmental tools and resources that enable empowerment and maximize self-determination; and
- WHEREAS: Government at all levels must be efficient and productive with fiscal resources, and must develop and utilize local human resources and be responsive to local needs; and
- WHEREAS: A 22-member Alaska Commission on Rural Governance and Empowerment—appointed in 1998 to study state, local and regional governance—spent more than a year holding hearings and conducting fact-finding trips to every region of the State, most (if not all) regional centers and regional institutions; and
- WHEREAS: The commission also reviewed prior works and recommendations, specifically the records and reports of the Alaska Natives Commission, a joint federal/state effort conducted over several years in the early nineties; and
- WHEREAS: In 1993, President Clinton announced the federal recognition of 226 Alaska tribes. However, they are tribes without a sovereign land base, as the courts ruled in a lawsuit that is commonly called the Venetie case. Tribes do have the right to govern; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska, under Governor Tony Knowles, followed the federal lead with the Millennium Agreement, a government-to-government agreement with tribes to foster rural delivery of services and economic development. Governor Knowles signed the agreement on September 29, 2000; and

WHEREAS: Momentum was lost and continued progress on the issue of tribal recognition did not occur during the administration of Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has yet to re-address the issues contained in the recommendations of the Commission on Rural Governance and Empowerment; and

WHEREAS: This is an opportune time for the commission to re-examine its original recommendations and determine what changes may be needed to reflect present events and to prepare for future discussions about a renewed relationship and agreement with the state; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that it is to the benefit of the State of Alaska and to Rural Alaskans that the former Commission on Rural Governance and Empowerment be reconvened for 1-2 days in Anchorage to review their past work, evaluate it against the current situation, and chart a new course for the future.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-11

TITLE: REPATRIATION OF ANCESTRAL REMAINS, FUNERARY OBJECTS, CULTURAL AND SACRED OBJECTS UNDER THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT AND THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WHEREAS: The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 was enacted for the return of Native American ancestral remains and sacred and cultural objects from museums and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS: The definition of Native American has been compromised by the Kennewick Man decision; and

WHEREAS: Federal agency compliance is difficult to assess because of the lack of information provided by federal agencies and the lack of data further makes it impossible to evaluate whether the requisite constitutionally mandated government-to-government relationship between Federal agencies and Indian tribes is occurring; and

WHEREAS: Repatriation of ancestral remains, funerary objects, cultural and sacred objects from the Smithsonian Institution are not subject to the basic requirement of NAGPRA and tribes have increasingly expressed concern about the stringent repatriation requirements and scientific studies conducted on ancestral remains; and

WHEREAS: Tribes have increasingly expressed concern about the inability to rebury their ancestral remains at sites from which they were original removed and which most often are on federal lands; and

WHEREAS: Funding to implement NAGPRA has consistently been inadequate, the available funding has not increased since FY 1996 and the National NAGPRA Program annual budget shortfalls are taken from grant appropriations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN does hereby recommends to Congress:

1. To amend the definition of "Native American" at 25 U.S.C. 3001 (9) by adding the words "or was" so that it reads: "Native American' means of, or relating to, a tribe, people, or culture that is, or was indigenous to the United States.";



2. That it immediately call for a GAO study to assess and evaluate the compliance of all Federal agency with the provisions of NAGPRA;
3. That it hold oversight hearings on federal compliance with NAGPRA, the Smithsonian Institution repatriation record, and the development of a uniform reburial policy on federal lands;
4. That if appropriate \$5 million for FY 2008 for grant to Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and museums to ensure continued implementation of the Act and fully fund the administration's budget.
5. To ask Congress to extend the NAGPRA deadline to 2010.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



# **SUBSISTENCE**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-12

TITLE: CALLING UPON OUR STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPERS TO WORK COOPERATIVELY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE SUBSISTENCE USE AREAS AND RESOURCE HABITATS

WHEREAS: Alaska is a land of many resources, both in its natural areas and its human cultures; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's wealth of nonrenewable resources can bring great benefit to the people of Alaska and to our Nation; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives recognizes the importance of the benefits to be gained through the development of these resources; and

WHEREAS: The mission of the Alaska Federation of Natives includes fostering and encouraging the preservation of Alaska Native cultures, and encouraging development of consistent with the economic needs of Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: Subsistence is a vital part of the lives, cultures, and economies of our communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2007 Alaska Federation of Natives hereby endorses efforts by our member communities to manage non-renewable resource development in ways that preserve the health and availability of our subsistence resources, whether from animals or plants and whether on land, or in rivers and streams, or in the ocean; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby calls upon our State and Federal governments, and non-renewable resource developers to support these efforts as well, and to work cooperatively and creatively with our communities to protect and preserve important subsistence use areas and subsistence resource habitat, using measures that include, but are not limited to:

- Limitations on the scale and scope of development at a given time and in a given area;
- Insure meaningful community involvement in planning the location and timing of development and related activities, with the goal of avoiding important subsistence resource habitat, subsistence use areas, and subsistence hunting and gathering periods;

- Commitment to an “all environmentally sensitive areas” policy for waste and by-products associated with development;
- Investment in research on the development of new and innovative technologies that reduce environmental impacts from non-renewable resource development; and
- Investment in high quality, independently peer-reviewed research efforts that track the environmental impacts of non-renewable resource development and that provide opportunities for local participation, the use of traditional knowledge, and education and training for Alaska Natives in the sciences and related fields.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA ESKIMO WHALING COMMISSION

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED  
TIER 1



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-13

- TITLE: PROTECTING ALASKA'S ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY WAY OF LIFE FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REGULATIONS FOR HARVESTING OF WILDLIFE
- WHEREAS: Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering constitute our nutritional, spiritual and cultural foundation since time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS: Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, addressing Alaska Native claims to ownership of Alaska's lands, based on "aboriginal use and occupancy"; and
- WHEREAS: Congress enacted the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act TITLE VIII enacting Federal legislation granting subsistence priority for rural residents over the priority harvest of all fish and game; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska enacted legislation to comply with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Title VIII, which created a "conflict" between Federal and State laws governing priority harvest of fish and game in the state of Alaska, failing to bring state laws into compliance with federally enacted legislation; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska continues to aggressively promote, enhance and develop their own fish and game policies, procedures and management that vigorously attempt to extinguish our aboriginal way of life; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulatory procedures regarding "legal" wanton waste directly conflict with the traditional customary aboriginal way of harvesting all of the meat, bones and animal skin, hide and fur; and
- WHEREAS: The State Game Board fails to include the harvest of the head, guts, bones, sinew and meat left on bones after close trimming, in regulation, as part of their salvaging requirements for non-Natives, sport, and trophy hunters; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game have continuously failed to enforce their laws and regulations, educate non-Native hunters on acceptable hunting and fishing practices, or to acknowledge, and thus to threaten, the aboriginal traditional and customary way of life in Alaska, particularly the wanton waste of big game and fowl by non-Native, sport, and trophy hunters; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska and Federal governments continue to erode aboriginal traditional and customary ways of life with the proposed implementation and development of exclusive subsistence areas in Alaska, when aboriginal traditional subsistence use areas encompass vast areas of land used covering hundreds of square miles; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska and Federal governments continue to diminish our aboriginal traditional and customary ways of life through sharing of our

harvest with our extended families, neighbors in other villages, and other countries such as Canada and Russia, whereby making subsistence hunters and harvesters criminals because of quota and harvest limitations; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska and Federal governments continue to create conflicts with aboriginal traditional and customary use through the drafting and adoption of laws, policies, procedures and regulations without inclusion and/or consultation with Alaska's aboriginal peoples in the development or implementation of these policies or procedures; and

WHEREAS: Aboriginal traditional and customary values continue to provide effective sound management and conservation foundations for subsistence resources which evolve with time and changing climactic conditions of nature, as they have since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native peoples continue to practice aboriginal traditional and customarily sound science to preserve, conserve and protect subsistence resources, including their habitat and environment to survive as our forefathers since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives Delegates and the AFN Board of Directors have adopted resolutions in support of protecting our traditional and customary way of life; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2007 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN membership encourages the AFN Board in their dialogue with the Governor of the State of Alaska and our U.S. Congressional delegation to include the need to address the aboriginal traditional and customary ways of managing, harvesting and sharing of subsistence resources; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates of the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives requests the AFN Board of Director's to prioritize amendments to the State of Alaska Fish and Game's hunting and harvesting regulations to eliminate the conflict with aboriginal traditional and customary ways of life of Alaska Native peoples and the harvesting fish and game, specifically wanton waste.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION ELDER  
DELEGATES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-14

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR PALIN TO RETURN THE HABITAT DIVISION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WHEREAS: The Habitat Division was formed to protect fish and game habitat and our state's renewable resources; and,

WHEREAS: The Habitat Division was originally housed in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and,

WHEREAS: Under the former Administration it was moved from Fish and Game to Department of Natural Resources to speed up the issuance of permits for non-renewable resources; and,

WHEREAS: The missions of the ADF&G and the Department of Natural Resources differ so significantly, many management decisions are likely to be made without adequate regard for resource sustainability.

WHEREAS: There is a concern that changes to State Coastal Zone Management and Mixing Zone Regulations will limit the Alaska Board of Fish and Game's ability to meet statutory responsibilities to conserve and develop sustainable resources; and

WHEREAS: Citizens and groups of the state have had no recourse but to seek protection in the courts through litigation to protect renewable resources and habitat; and,

WHEREAS: AFN supports the Alaska Board of Fisheries January 19, 2007 letter to Governor Palin requesting the movement of the Habitat Division back to the Alaska Board of Fish and Game; and

WHEREAS: Governor Palin has the authority and power to return the Habitat Division out of Department of Natural Resources and back into the Department of Fish and Game; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges Governor Palin to return the Habitat Division back to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 2

CONVENTION ACTION: REFER TO AFN BOARD





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-15

- TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PREDATOR CONTROL AS A MEANS OF INCREASING GAME POPULATIONS AND FOR SUBSISTENCE USE
- WHEREAS: The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, allows predator control, including aerial or same-day airborne hunting of wolves, in limited circumstances in certain areas to enhance the population of moose and caribou; and
- WHEREAS: In some part of the state wolf and bear predation is responsible for 80% in subsistence areas and 100% in national parks and preserves for the mortality of moose and caribou that occurs in a year, and as a consequence the population of moose or caribou is far below what the habitat would support; and
- WHEREAS: The state's predator control program, and all game regulations, are promulgated by the Alaska Board of Game through an extensive public process; and
- WHEREAS: Moose and caribou are critical subsistence resources and are often the main protein source for many Alaska Native villages; and
- WHEREAS: At the present time, Alaska's predator control program is limited to five wolf control programs encompassing less than 10% of the state; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska's predator control program often comes under attack from Outside interest groups who may not fully understand the program, and recently legislation has been introduced in Congress that would completely ban the program.; and
- WHEREAS: The federal managers are reluctant to adopt predator control measures on federal land due to their purpose which reads, "conservation of the refuges fish and wildlife populations and habitat in their natural diversity; and
- WHEREAS: The federal government owns 60% of the all lands in Alaska; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that it supports limited predator control within the parameters established by the Alaska Board of Game, including aerial or same-day hunting of wolves, as a sound method of game management and protect subsistence uses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to encourage public education on this matter and to resist any efforts in Congress to impose a federal ban on predator control in Alaska and adopt laws that will allow the use of predator control measures as deployed by the State of Alaska.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that federal land managers/FSB make native owners and subsistence users as active participants in working to address predator issues to protect and enhance subsistence resources

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER I

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-16

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A FUNDRAISER TO PROTECT THE ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE WAY OF LIFE THROUGH A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE TO SUPPORT THE ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE COMMISSION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Community is now at a defining point as it relates to protecting our hunting and fishing rights; and

WHEREAS: Current political climate suggests erosion of hunting and fishing rights may be imminent; and

WHEREAS: Processes have been in place to methodically and subtly change the subsistence protection under Title VIII of ANILCA; and

WHEREAS: In an effort to prevent further degradation of our hunting and fishing rights the Alaska Federation of Natives needs to develop a funding; and mechanism to lobby policy makers at the international and national levels; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN helps to develop a process and form the Alaska Native Subsistence Fund, and a membership drive which calls for individuals to take ownership and directly participate in protecting our subsistence way of life.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-17

TITLE: A CALL TO RESTRUCTURE THE SPORTING CONSERVATION COUNCIL (SCC) TO INCLUDE ALASKA NATIVES AND NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS

WHEREAS: The Sporting Conservation Council was formed under the auspices of the Secretary of Interior Gale Norton to “institutionalize the role of sportsmen and women in the decision-making process at Interior”; and

WHEREAS: Secretary of Interior Gail Norton stated: “Now, for the first time, sportsmen and women will have an officially sanctioned committee to advise Interior on issues important to them and the country. This new advisory council will provide a formal mechanism for the department to benefit from the expertise of sportsmen and women as well as become aware of their concerns as we develop federal policies”; and

WHEREAS: Remarks from Jeff Crane tapped by Secretary Norton as President of the Sporting Conservation Council echoed those same issues stating “The establishment of such an advisory council speaks volumes for how far the sporting community has come as a key constituent in the decision-making process. This bodes well for us not only in this Administration but will ensure that sportsmen have a seat at the table in future Administrations as well”; and

WHEREAS: The Sport Conservation Council members may recommend policies or programs designed to maintain or restore wetlands and forest and rangeland habitats, as well as policies or programs that promote access to hunting and recreation on federal lands. The council will also advise the Interior Secretary about wildlife conservation endeavors that benefit hunting and wildlife resources and that encourage partnerships among members of the public, the sportsmen-conservation community, wildlife conservation groups and state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS: Selected to serve on the Sport Conservation Council were Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation Board members:

- Rob Keck, CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation
- Robert Model, Chairman of the Boone and Crockett Club

Others selected to serve include;

- CSF Board Member J. Dart, President and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- John Baughman, International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- Dan Dessecker, Ruffed Grouse Society

- Steve Mealey, Boone and Crockett Club
- Jim Mosher, Northern American Grouse Partnership
- Susan Recce, National Rife Association
- Merle Shepard, Safari Club International
- Christine Thomas, Dean and Professor of Resource Management, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources
- John Tomke, Chairman of the Board of Ducks Unlimited. Inc.; and

WHEREAS: Secretary Gale Norton said that no other entities exist that adequately represent the views of the hunting and conservation communities, and she there deemed it worthwhile to create the council under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA); and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN shall work to restructure the Sporting Conservation Council to require that Alaska Natives and American Indians have the opportunity to serve on the Sporting Conservation Council.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: REFER TO AFN BOARD



# **HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-18

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A FEDERAL FUNDING INCREASE TO THE VILLAGE BUILT CLINIC (VBC) LEASE PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC), is a non profit regional health organization founded in 1970 and based in Nome, Alaska to serve the health care needs of residents in the Bering Strait region; and

WHEREAS: NSHC and many other regional tribal health organizations in Alaska provide health care services to residents in their regions through regional hospitals and village health clinics; and

WHEREAS: Village health clinics are the only health care facilities available in rural Alaska villages; and

WHEREAS: Village health clinics in rural Alaska are owned by the cities, Tribes, or regional health organizations; and

WHEREAS: The Village Built Clinic Lease Program was established in FY 1970 by the Indian Health Service to provide financial assistance to operate and maintain village health clinics in rural Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS: Congress appropriated \$192,000 in FY 1972 to lease 38 clinics and \$3,857,148 in 2006 to lease 170 clinics; and

WHEREAS: VBC Lease Program lease amounts vary substantially and are largely under funded due to insufficient VBC appropriations to pay for program growth, true inflationary costs, and the increased size of village health clinics; and

WHEREAS: The majority of lease amounts have not changed since the last significant appropriation increase to the Village Built Clinic Lease Program in FY 1989; and

WHEREAS: The cost of fuel, electricity, janitorial, and many other expenses to maintain and operate the clinics continue to increase and many new clinics are larger and more expensive to operate; and

WHEREAS: AFN passed resolution 2005-27 Requesting for \$5.5 Million increase for the Village Built Clinic (VBC) Lease Program which has not yet been successful in getting a federal increase to the program and most recently The Village Built Clinic Program: Village Clinics in Crisis, May 2007 (ANHB) was written to describe the program's current unmet needs; and

WHEREAS: The cost to heat the village clinics has risen substantially over the last 5 years, with villages routinely paying anywhere from \$4.00 to \$7.00 for a gallon of heating fuel. This is an area of the nation which requires heating of facilities 9 months a year; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN hereby requests that our Alaskan Delegation support a \$5.5 million funding increase to the I.H.S. federal budget specifically for the Village Built Clinic Program as previously directed in AFN Resolution 2005-27 and that Indian Health Services change their currently funding formula to accurately reflect true inflationary costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the IHS to conduct energy audits on the rural clinics to offer recommendations on how energy efficiency may be improved and to insure that lease amounts cover the true cost of heat, electricity, operations and maintenance of the facilities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives will work with the Alaska Tribal Health Consortium and the Alaska Native Health Board in efforts to advocate for increased federal funding levels to keep up with inflationary costs to adequately maintain and operate the village's clinics.

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

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 07-19

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE INDIAN CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

**WHEREAS:** Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) fully supports the goals of protecting Native children and providing them with a strong measure of safety in their Native communities as provided for under the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (ICPA), 25 U.S.C. 3207; and

**WHEREAS:** Many AFN member tribes and tribal organizations are located in rural Alaska and are the largest employers in their villages and/or regions; and

**WHEREAS:** In the course of conducting background checks, many AFN member tribes and tribal organizations have determined that individuals convicted of felony or misdemeanor offenses that fall under 25 U.S.C. 3207(b) include offenses that do not involve children or sexual crimes, that some crimes occurred many years ago or arose out of youthful indiscretions, and that some of these individuals have become model citizens who have contributed greatly to the community for many years; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN strongly urges Congress to amend provisions of the ICPA to permit tribes and tribal organizations in rural Alaska where the employment pool is extremely limited to have the discretion to consider mitigating circumstances to determine the employability of an individual; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the language implementing this flexibility would not undermine the key policy objective of the ICPA, but, rather, would streamline the framework for conducting character investigations and create flexibility in a very narrow set of circumstances for remote and rural tribal communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that language in such an amendment should permit discretion in instances where the felony or misdemeanor did not involve or directly affect a child; involve sexual crimes; and that the tribe or tribal organization has considered all mitigating factors — such as the length of time since the offense occurred, the nature of the offense; the rehabilitative steps that the individual has undertaken which result in the conclusion that the individual does not pose a risk to children; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that additional language amending the ICPA be added to clearly define the term “control over children.”

SUBMITTED BY: MANILAQ ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-20

TITLE: FUNDING FOR A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT FACILITY IN EACH OF THE 12 REGIONS IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: In 2002 & 2003 AFN adopted resolutions that focused on the creation of regional behavioral health treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS: The regional behavioral health treatment facilities that were created lack capacity to serve all Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: The geographic location of existing behavioral health treatment facilities inhibits accessibility and effective aftercare treatment; and

WHEREAS: Many of our regions do not have facilities for the treatment of multiple behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS: The behavioral health problems of our Alaska Native people are documented in significantly higher rates of suicide and substance abuse resulting in increased rates of domestic violence and incarceration; and

WHEREAS: Incarceration does not provide the treatment needed to deal with behavioral health issues and to address issues that give rise to bad behavior that could follow them throughout their life; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN advocate for increased funding from the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Mental Health Trust, the State of Alaska, and the U.S. Federal Government, to ensure there exists a behavioral health treatment facility with support funding to operate in each of the 12 regions in Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG REGION (KONIAG, INC. AND KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION)

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 2

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-21

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GRANTING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE USDA COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM TO TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS MANAGING HEALTH FACILITIES ON FEDERALLY-OWNED PROPERTY

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives and American Indians suffer from some of the highest rates of health disparities in the country for diabetes, alcohol and drug abuse, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, injuries, infant mortality and other diseases; and

WHEREAS: Federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations across the country deliver health services and manage health facilities on federally owned property through self-governance compacts with the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS: They are eligible to assume ownership of the federal property associated with the health facilities that they manage, but choose not to for various reasons including environmental contaminants on the property left over from previous decades by federal management of the facilities; and

WHEREAS: There are very limited resources available through Indian Health Service to meet the extensive need to renovate, replace or build additional facilities from which to deliver health care; and

WHEREAS: The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Community Facilities Grant Program is a valuable resource for construction or renovation of health facilities and other community infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: Tribes and tribal organizations that have assumed ownership of health facilities formerly owned and managed by the federal government are eligible to participate in the USDA Community Facilities Grant Program; however, those who have not assumed ownership of the health facilities and associated liabilities such as environmental contaminants are not eligible for the USDA Community Facilities Grant Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges our Congressional Delegation to enact legislative language that will make tribes/tribal organizations that manage health facilities on federally owned property eligible for the USDA Community Facilities Grant Program to construct or renovate real property.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 3

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07- 22

TITLE: REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO ADDRESS SERIOUS PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES BY RESTRUCTURING AND PRIORITIZING THE VPSO PROGRAM, WITH THE FULL INVOLVEMENT OF THE REGIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, IN CONSULTATION WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS: Public Safety is a high priority for all Alaska Natives in the State of Alaska and it is essential for the health and welfare of all individuals, businesses, and tribal governments in the State; and

WHEREAS: Funding for the VPSO program has been dramatically reduced from prior years requiring its administrators to prioritize where VPSOs will be assigned; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the State of Alaska and its administrators and the Alaska Legislature address serious public safety issues in rural Alaska, including providing more funding for VPSO and other public safety programs and support staffing in the villages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Regional Non-Profit and the Tribal Governments are fully involved in the restructuring and prioritizing of the VPSO Program.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07- 23

TITLE: A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PROCEDURES, POLICIES AND QUALITY OF DIAGNOSES OF ALASKA NATIVE ELDER CANCER PATIENTS WITHIN THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS: Many Alaska Native elders are dying of various forms of cancer at an alarming rate through out Alaska; and

WHEREAS: There have been cases of elders with various forms of cancer illnesses that may be able to be treated through intensive cancer treatment programs but who have not been able to access such treatment programs; and

WHEREAS: In some cases Alaska Native elders have not been fully informed of their options for intensive cancer treatment programs thus giving up hope of ever leading an extended life through proper intensive cancer treatment programs; and

WHEREAS: In some cases the first opinion for cancer diagnosis for intensive cancer treatment program options are not offered to Alaska's elders; and

WHEREAS: Elders are trustful of their doctors opinions and believe them to be and accept their loss of life though cancer as an inevitable option; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives recommends that Alaska Native tribal health organizations re-evaluate their policies for treating elders with cancer to:

1. provide more than one opinion when an elder is diagnosed with any form of cancer;
2. provide an experienced translator and have a family member present when discussing cancer diagnoses and treatment with elders
3. provide information on all options for intensive cancer treatment programs for elders; and

4. provide elders with the same dignity and opportunity for extended life as any other cancer patient within the Alaska Native health system.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION ELDER DELEGATES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-24

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FOCUS ON CANCER CARE  
DELIVERY TO ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE

WHEREAS: Cancer was not historically a major cause of major illness and death among Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: Cancer is now the leading cause of death among Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: The overall cancer rate in the United States general population declined through the 1990s but the rates for Alaska Native people increased; and

WHEREAS: More than 450 Alaska Native people are diagnosed with cancer annually, many of whom receive their treatment at or through the Alaska Native Medical Center; and

WHEREAS: For Alaska Native people living in Rural Alaska, cancer care often means long family separation and community dislocation during treatment, with limited aftercare and resources upon a return home; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Cancer Foundation was established to provide financial support to the Oncology Clinic at the Alaska Native Medical Center in its efforts to assist Alaska Native people diagnosed with cancer and their families to fight this disease; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Cancer Foundation's mission is to advance the delivery of cancer care, with an ultimate goal of building a state-of-the-art Chronic Disease Center on the Alaska Native Medical Center campus that specializes in cancer treatment for Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium has recently established the Healthy Alaska Native Foundation that has as one of its five goals the improvement of cancer care.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN supports and endorses the Alaska Native Cancer Foundation's mission and other efforts within and outside the Alaska Native Tribal Health System, including the Healthy Alaska Native Foundation, to improve cancer delivery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives encourages the Alaska Native Health System to support the improvement and enhancement of resources for cancer care delivery to Alaska Native people.

SUBMITTED BY: ANCSA REGIONAL CEOS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-25

TITLE: HEALTHCARE FACILITIES IN RURAL ALASKA AND VA CARE FOR VETERANS LIVING IN RURAL ALASKA

WHEREAS: Active duty soldiers in the United States Armed Forces are promised healthcare and other benefits upon their exit from active duty; and

WHEREAS: Veterans living in rural Alaska are required to travel to Anchorage and other urban settings for their initial evaluations for their benefits; and

WHEREAS: Rural veterans must pay for transportation costs to and from their villages out of their own pockets; and

WHEREAS: These veterans may not have financial resources to pay transportation and other costs associated with their initial evaluations; and

WHEREAS: There are healthcare facilities in rural regional centers in hub communities such as Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow, Dillingham and others; and

WHEREAS: The Indian Health Service and the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have a memorandum of agreement on addressing the needs of Alaska Native/American Indians and Native Hawaiians; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges VA to authorize healthcare facilities in rural Alaska to treat veterans living in rural Alaska for healthcare issues associated with their time in active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



**CULTURAL**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-26

TITLE: ESTABLISHING ALASKA TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICES

WHEREAS: The preservation and protection of cultural practices and cultural sites and properties of traditional religious and cultural importance are of utmost importance to Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS: The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as amended in 1992 provides for Indian tribes to assume all or part of State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) functions on tribal lands; and

WHEREAS: The NHPA defines an "Indian tribe" or "tribe" as "an Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including a Native village, Regional Corporation or Village Corporation, as those defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [43 U.S.C. 1602] (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS: Indian tribes in the lower 48 states have proven that assuming the State Historic Preservation Office functions on tribal lands has been efficient, effective, and successful; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native tribes have been denied participation in this program based on administrative fiat and are therefore disenfranchised from this important program that provides oversight and funding to protect Alaska Native cultural resources; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native tribes and Alaska Native ANCSA corporations may develop agreements to participate fully in the federal preservation program as Tribal Historic Preservation Offices based on ANCSA corporation land and thus be eligible for the federal funding to carry out these functions; and

WHEREAS: Such agreements between ANCSA corporations and tribes would be totally voluntary and would not grant new powers or jurisdictional authority beyond what is agreed to by the ANCSA corporation land owners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN strongly encourage the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the National Park Service, and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office to develop a process by which Alaska Natives tribes and ANCSA corporations can access the federal funding to carry out these important cultural preservation functions per the intent of the NHPA.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG REGION (KONIAG, INC AND KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 3

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-27

TITLE: MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION OF ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives desire the maintenance and restoration of their indigenous languages; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native languages embody ancient traditional knowledge that can be of benefit to all humankind; and

WHEREAS: Evaluations of educational programs that integrate Native languages into academic curriculum and teaching demonstrate an improved academic performance and success of Native students; and

WHEREAS: Rights to retain, develop and practice ones own language and culture is a fundamental right to all peoples including indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS: The Declaration of the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 13th, 2007 in which cultural and linguistic rights are in compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Human Rights Conventions of 1966 of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS: Congress through the recent enactment of H.R. 4766 has recognized the value and significance of Alaska Native languages and has authorized funding through programs within the Health and Human Service, National Science Foundation and other federal programs; and

WHEREAS: The English Only Initiative adopted in the State of Alaska threatens the survival of Alaska Native language, and has been challenged by Alaska Natives in the Alaska courts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, that the AFN meeting in the 2007 Convention in Fairbanks convey its recommendation to the Alaska Congressional Delegation that it support and advocate for full funding of language programs within the Health and Human Services, the National Science Foundation and other federal entities supporting Native language restoration; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Legislature to develop and integrate Alaska Native language restorations programs into Alaska educational programs.

SUBMITTED BY: NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH – INUPIAQ HISTORY, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COMMISSION AND NORTHWEST ALASKA NATIVE ASSOCIATION - INUPIAQ LANGUAGE COMMISSION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 2

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





# **LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-28

TITLE: MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives have been residents of rural Alaska communities for time immemorial; and

WHEREAS: Smaller coastal communities throughout the State depend upon the marine highway transportation system and other means of marine transportation for access to services, merchants, and the necessary commodities to sustain life and to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS: Coastal communities lack a cost effective means of transporting individuals and groups allowing business, social and cultural interaction between communities; and

WHEREAS: The rising cost of fuel and other economic factors have caused financial difficulties for transportation system operators in rural Alaska, causing many of them to close their doors or to discontinue service to the rural communities; and

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

WHEREAS: Periods of inclement weather makes other forms of transportation impossible; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN request the State of Alaska to fund a feasibility study to provide a marine highway transportation and barging system throughout the Kodiak Island region, the Bristol Bay region, the Aleutian Chain, Prince William Sound, Southeast Alaska, Arctic Slope, Bering Straits, Pribilof Islands, NANA and Norton Sound Regions, TCC Region, Kuskokwim Area and all other estuaries and interior regions and other rural communities being impacted and suffering as a result of the rising cost of fuel and other factors causing rural transportation to become economically unviable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2007 AFN Delegates support and endorse the creation of a transportation system to provide rural Alaska the transportation and access needs to support life and well-being in the villages of Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: KONIAG REGION (KONIAG, INC. AND KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION)

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-29

TITLE: FLOODING AND EROSION

WHEREAS: Cyclones and severe fall storms evolve and develop in open, ice free oceans; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaskan communities are situated at current sites for easy access to subsistence resources and have thrived for centuries; and

WHEREAS: Continued reduction of sea ice is creating life-threatening circumstances for a number of coastal communities due to the slow rise of sea level and increased intensity of storms; and

WHEREAS: The natural barriers that have protected these communities for centuries have diminished and in some areas no longer able to hold off the ocean surges; and

WHEREAS: Whole communities are at risk with no ways and means of evacuation and can be diminished in the event of a 100-year storm; and

WHEREAS: Hundreds of residents in affected communities are huddled in their homes during fall storms wondering if the tide will switch before surges engulf them; and

WHEREAS: Residents living in developed states can jump in a car and run from storms; and

WHEREAS: Climate change is causing concern for the wildlife and environment; and

WHEREAS: Safety of human lives should be of the highest priority; and

WHEREAS: Those safety issues are often overlooked and underestimated by our state and federal officials; and

WHEREAS: We live in a state that has over \$40 billion in the bank; and

WHEREAS: We live in a country that provides safety and long term recovery and rebuilding efforts for people living half-way around the globe; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN recognize and support the efforts in safeguarding their villages against flooding and erosion of these communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN use their influence and resources to deliver this message to our State and Federal officials; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN remains persistent in this pursuit until all the safety concerns of our people are met.

SUBMITTED BY: UNALAKLEET NATIVE CORPORATION AND THE  
NATIVE VILLAGE OF UNALAKLEET

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



# **EDUCATION**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-30

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR THE EDUCATION AND PREPARATION FOR THE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives is aware of the campaign for the education of the global warming and the concern it raises for the tribes across Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The global warming has a direct impact on our homelands and further impacts our subsistence way of life, impacts our seasonal hunting and gathering lifestyle with the climate change that comes with it; and

WHEREAS: The global warming issue will need to be researched and reviewed by the tribes across Alaska with ample time to prepare for the worst case scenario of relocating to higher grounds if the outlook for the water rising is planetary; and

WHEREAS: The actual chemical changes with the seas with global warming on coastal areas and rivers should also be reviewed as our fish and shell fish become impacted by such change; and

WHEREAS: A campaign to address the community needs before the current effects of global warming begin to devastate these communities and to address planning and preparing the communities for these imminent changes; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives encourage all of the communities across Alaska to begin to plan and prepare for the changes which are imminent through education and to raise awareness of these effects and finally to conduct strategic planning to prepare for such disastrous cataclysms.

SUBMITTED BY: CHEVAK NATIVE VILLAGE

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



**ECONOMIC**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-31

- TITLE: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A STATEWIDE ENERGY PLAN
- WHEREAS: The cost of energy worldwide is increasing rapidly; and
- WHEREAS: Supplies of natural gas in Cook Inlet are projected to drop below needed demand by 2014, imperiling the economy of Southcentral Alaska, the state's major population center; and
- WHEREAS: The State Legislature is unlikely to let the state's major population center freeze in the dark; and
- WHEREAS: The Constitution of the State of Alaska states in Article VIII, Section 2., that the legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State for the maximum benefit of all its people; including residents of rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: Failing to plan for energy shortages increases the likelihood that energy policy decisions will be made haphazardly, without taking the best interests of all the people of Alaska or the environment into account; and
- WHEREAS: Reliable affordable energy is nevertheless critical to healthy economies; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges the State of Alaska to begin immediately to develop a Statewide Energy Plan to deal with inevitable future energy shortages and the continuing escalating energy costs in ways that allow for a fair and equitable sharing throughout the state of Alaska's energy resources, including North Slope natural gas, geothermal and other alternatives energy sources.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 2

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-32

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THEIR AGENCIES TO GIVE ATTENTION TO ECONOMICALLY DEPRESSED VILLAGES AND ENABLE RURAL VILLAGES TO BECOME SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides housing for all Alaska Native communities; and

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

WHEREAS: The funding levels provided by HUD to the Alaska Native communities, regional, and village corporations has remained essentially the same without major increases for the last several years; and

WHEREAS: The vast need for housing in rural Alaska exceeds the funding levels provided by HUD; and

WHEREAS: Additional homes provided by HUD funding will enable these communities to become stable, viable, and sustainable; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN urges the State and Federal government and their agencies to increase funding for HUD housing for all Alaska Native communities.

SUBMITTED BY: MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 2

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-33

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF THE “NATIVE AMERICAN CHALLENGE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT OF 2007”

WHEREAS: The Association of Village Council Presidents, the Bristol Bay native Association, and the Alaska Federation of Natives applying jointly, are identified as an eligible entities in the Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act of 2007; and

WHEREAS: The purposes of the Act are to:

1. adapt the lessons of foreign aid to underdeveloped economies, such as the experience of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, to the provision of Federal economic development assistance to similarly situated remote Native American communities;
2. provide Federal economic development assistance for Native communities through the Native American Challenge Demonstration Project;
3. administer Federal economic development assistance in a manner that promotes economic growth and the elimination of poverty and strengthens good governance, entrepreneurship, and investment in Native communities;
4. improve the effectiveness of Federal economic development assistance by encouraging the integration and coordination of such assistance in Native American communities;
5. promote sustainable economic and poverty reduction policies in Native American communities in a manner that promotes self-determination and self-sufficiency among remote Native American communities while preserving their cultural values; and
6. establish a demonstration project which, if successful, may be broadly applied to other Native American communities in the United States; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to authorize the Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act of 2007, utilizing the principles of the Indian Self Determination Act with new federal resources, maximizing local decision making process and a results based management process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after initial successful completion of the Native American Challenge Demonstration Project, this federal economic development assistance project will be extended statewide.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07- 34

TITLE: A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE BY-PASS MAIL SYSTEM AND QUALITY OF DELIVERY SERVICES AND SPOILAGE OF ESSENTIAL GOODS IN ALASKA'S RURAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The United States Postal Services is the primary transport service for the delivery of goods essential to a quality of life in Alaska's rural communities; and

WHEREAS: The United States Postal Services by-pass mail system has detrimentally affected the quality and levels of goods for the delivery of essential goods to Alaska's rural communities; and

WHEREAS: Many rural Alaskan communities served by the United States Postal services continue to experience deteriorated levels of service and the spoilage of essential goods; and

WHEREAS: There is a dire need for increased quality of service by the United States Postal Services in Alaska without the spoilage of essential goods and loss of revenues for rural retailers; and

WHEREAS: Small businesses struggling to provide quality services and products in Alaska's rural communities suffer an economic loss due to the damaged goods received as a result of the deficient by-pass mail system which in turn creates financial hardships on the small business owners; and

WHEREAS: Native communities across the state are faced with diseases like cancer and diabetes, and

WHEREAS: The substandard delivery of quality goods due to flawed by-pass mail policies and procedures creates a community health hazard as a result of the insufficient resources available to foster healthy living choices; and

WHEREAS: The lack of quality goods available due to spoilage contributes to the health risks that attack the Alaska Native population and rural residents; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the AFN Delegates strongly encourage the United States Postal Services and our Congressional Delegation to:

1. Continue to support the by-pass mail services to rural Alaskan communities by contract air carrier; and
2. Increase the United States Postal Service's that carries minimum requirement to provide minimum of 3 day mainline schedules and 1 day bush schedule services and operational budgets to rural communities ; and
3. Expedite delivery of good and services prior to spoilage of good for rural Alaskan villages.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAGVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION ELDER  
ELEGATES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-35

**TITLE:** PROTECTING AND PROMOTING ALASKA NATIVE ARTISTS AND THEIR CREATIVE WORK BY UPDATING THE STATE STATUTES GOVERNING THE SILVER HAND PERMIT PROGRAM

**WHEREAS:** The Silver Hand Permit Program is the State of Alaska's sanctioned Alaska Native Arts authentication program and has been administered by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, a division of the State Department of Education & Early Development, since 1998 upon the recommendation of a Governor-appointed Alaska Native review committee; and

**WHEREAS:** The Silver Hand Permit Program currently serves more than 1,500 permit holders, who collectively represent 151 Alaska Native villages and Alaska's three largest cities, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, and which anticipates a steady increase in eligible applicants in the future; and

**WHEREAS:** The Silver Hand Permit Program supports the integrity and integration of the subsistence lifestyle, cultural well-being, sustainability of village residency and socioeconomic potential for Alaska Native artists and their families by helping Alaska Native artists earn crucial cash income from artwork that can be produced without having to leave their villages; and

**WHEREAS:** The Silver Hand identification seal is recognized and promoted by the majority of large and small tourism companies, statewide retailers, state agencies and contractors as the primary means for consumers to identify and therefore purchase authentic Alaska Native artwork produced by and in Alaska Native artists residing in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS:** The use of the Silver Hand identification seal results in a proven marketing advantage and provides needed economic benefits to Alaska Native artists through increased sales and optimum sale prices in comparison to items not authenticated with the Silver Hand identification seal; and

**WHEREAS:** The statutes governing the Silver Hand Permit Program have remained unchanged since the early 1970s and now needs to be updated to respond to dramatic changes in the creative pursuits and expression of Alaska Native artists and the expansion of consumer and tourism markets; and,

**WHEREAS:** AFN has made a prior commitment to "protect the market price of Alaska Native artwork and prevent imitation and duplication of Alaska Native creative endeavors" through the convention passage of Resolution No. 95-57 in 1995; and

**WHEREAS:** The AFN Board of Directors meeting held on February 12 & 13, 1996 established policy guidelines "with respect to the arts and crafts sales during the annual convention of the corporation" required that for, "articles that are being sold, the following identification must be evident on the article, or attached to it: 1. A Certified Silver Hand tag identifying the article as made by an Alaska Native;" and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 97 and House Bill 161 before the 25<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature would enact amendments to the statute governing the Silver Hand Permit Program. The Alaska Federation of Natives supports the following amendments to the Program:

1. Expand enforcement capability by adding civil penalties for misuse of the identification seal;
2. Expand allowable materials and art disciplines to include contemporary Alaska Native artists and contemporary art materials;
3. Expand definitions of eligible visual art media to help permit holders and consumers;
4. Replace *craft* reference with *art* reference to be more inclusive of all art types;
5. To be eligible for the program, we support a requirement of proof that the individual is 1) an Alaska Native and an enrolled member of an Alaska Native tribe; or, 2) an enrolled member of Alaska Native Corporation;
6. Award permits directly to individual artists only and eliminate the unused "agent" portion of the program (already suspended by Council policy);

directly result in a Silver Hand Permit Program improvements benefiting Alaska Native artists and Alaska Native tribal members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN requests the State of Alaska Legislature Senate and House to pass and enact the legislative described above to make every legally binding effort to protect and promote Alaska Native artists and their creative work on the open market.

SUBMITTED BY: THE EYAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 2

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-36

- TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF AFFORDABLE ENERGY DIVERSITY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS
- WHEREAS: Alaska Natives living in rural Alaska pay some of the highest prices in the country for fuel and many live near or below the poverty level; and
- WHEREAS: The recent, dramatic increase in the cost of fuel in rural Alaska is having a dramatic impact on limited household and community financial resources; and
- WHEREAS: The increased cost of fuel is threatening the economic viability of rural Alaska families and communities and inflating electric generation costs; and
- WHEREAS: Dependency on diesel within Alaska native villages exposes rural Alaska families and communities to unacceptable financial burdens and adverse environmental impacts; and
- WHEREAS: Small hydroelectric power development presents a renewable, indigenous alternative to diesel fueled generation of electric power for many Alaska Natives, eliminating fuel cost volatility, noxious emissions, and the risk of fuel spills; and
- WHEREAS: The significant capital investment required to construct and develop hydroelectric power projects often presents inadequate financial return in the initial years that can preclude project development by rural communities and Alaska Native corporations; and
- WHEREAS: The long term benefits of renewable small hydroelectric power development, both financially and environmentally, are well established and can serve to attract further beneficial economic development for local communities; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Natives, through their communities and corporations, should be encouraged to participate directly in the ownership and development of their local hydroelectric resources and receive the financial support to assure such development; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN hereby endorses and approves of the development of the Hydroelectric Project such as Reynolds Creek by Haida Corporation in order to provide clean reliable electric power generation for the communities of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports organizations in their efforts to obtain financial assistance at the state and federal levels to assure acceptable investment requirements and economically viable development of these important renewable energy projects; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: Haida Corporation

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-37

TITLE: ENERGY POLICY FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS: World energy prices are reaching record highs, with crude oil recently closing above \$86 per barrel on world markets; and

WHEREAS: Declining production in both of Alaska's two historical oil and gas basins (Cook Inlet and the North Slope) threatens the long term economic health of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Although the effects of the declining oil and gas production have been temporarily masked by the high price of oil, the State of Alaska faces a future revenue crisis unless current production levels can be sustained by new oil and gas discoveries; and

WHEREAS: The long-anticipated Alaska natural gas pipeline remains uncertain as a project and, in any case, because of the long lead-time required to design, permit, and construct the pipeline it will not generate significant revenue to the State of Alaska for many years following an initial commitment to construction; and

WHEREAS: Alaska lacks large-scale energy production from abundant renewable resources, particularly on the Rail belt electrical system; and

WHEREAS: Much of the electrical power generated in Alaska's off-road communities is produced via diesel-fired generators; and

WHEREAS: The high cost of gasoline, diesel and fuel oil for Alaska's rural and off-road communities is exacerbating the urban migration from these communities and further pinching the already limited budgets for those who remain residents of their traditional villages; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska needs a comprehensive energy policy that addresses these issues to properly incentivize and support a long term vision to improve the energy cycle from exploration to production to distribution to consumption; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN strongly encourages the Governor to provide leadership in the area of energy by creating a comprehensive energy policy for the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports legislative action to incentivize the development and wise use of renewable energy; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN supports an energy policy that adequately addresses the energy crisis in rural Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: ANCSA REGIONAL CEO GROUP

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-38

- TITLE:** REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR A COST EFFECTIVE HEALTH COVERAGE ALTERNATIVE, THROUGH THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF SELF-INSURED MULTIPLE EMPLOYER WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS (MEWAs), FOR ALASKA'S SMALL EMPLOYERS
- WHEREAS:** The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six (56) member indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and
- WHEREAS:** AVCP fully supports its member villages in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS:** Since 1983, AVCP and nine (9) other major employers in rural Alaska including the AVCP Regional Housing Authority, Outsaramuit Native Council (Bethel), Yukon Telephone, Inc., Kashunamuit School District, City of Aniak, Alaska Association of Housing Authorities, Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority, Bethel Community Services Foundation, Bethel Native Corporation and the Kuskokwim Native Association belonged first to a fully insured health plan and subsequently to an association providing coverage through a Self-insured Multiple Employer Welfare Association (MEWA) called the "Alaska Rural Employer's Benefit Trust", or AREBT, for the purpose of providing affordable life, accident, disability, medical, dental and vision coverage to approximately 1,300 employees and their dependents; and
- WHEREAS:** Since adopting a self-funded program, these benefits have cost well below that offered by Premera Blue Cross and conventional insurance companies. These companies are often reluctant to provide coverage to many of AREBT's participating employers because many of these employers are funded by federal and state grants and their cash flow is not certain; and
- WHEREAS:** This lower cost self-funded alternative to the commercial insurance market is now in jeopardy because, as a Self-insured MEWA, AREBT is subject to regulation and aggressive taxation by the State of Alaska, Division of Insurance, in addition to ERISA; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2003, Alaska passed legislation providing for the regulation of Self-insured MEWAs which treats Self-insured MEWAs as if they were commercial insurance companies domiciled in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The fact that Self-insured MEWAs are regulated and taxed is not, in itself the problem. AREBTs trustees understand the need for the State to ensure covered employees are protected against poor management and insolvency. However, the problem for Self-insured MEWAs is how the taxes are assessed coupled with the timing of the taxation and promulgation of regulations related to their effective date; and

WHEREAS: Because of the method of taxation the current Administration at the Division of Insurance has chosen to use, Self-insured MEWAs are under threat of being taxed out of existence. In fact, one Self-insured MEWA has already had to start the termination process and cannot recover; and

WHEREAS: Unlike Premera Blue Cross, which is taxed on total contributions less claims at a rate of 6%, self-insured MEWAs are taxed at 2.7% of total contributions with no regard to claims paid. However, like Premera Blue Cross and unlike a for-profit insurance company, all Self-insured MEWAs are trusts defined under Section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code and are non-profit. Surprisingly, the State of Alaska taxes Self-insured MEWAs as if they are for-profit insurance companies; and

WHEREAS: The regulations specifying how Self-insured MEWAs are to be taxed were promulgated in 2005, but were made effective for plan years beginning in 2003. As a result, the tax burden coupled with the level of the prior year's tax liability was a severe financial blow to Self-insured MEWAs; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska's Division of Insurance should have set procedures for promulgation of regulations. However, the regulations specifying how Self-insured MEWAs are to be taxed were issued as "desk regs" bypassing formal procedures, including the public comment period; and

WHEREAS: Consequently, not only were Self-insured MEWAs caught unprepared with the level of taxation, the trustees and their advisors were deprived of the opportunity to express their opinions on regulations which had a significant financial impact upon their operations; and

WHEREAS: The method of assessment of the Self-insured MEWA taxes, coupled with their retroactive effect, in the short term, works to eliminate much of the Self-insured MEWAs cost advantage over Premera and the conventional insurance market; and

WHEREAS: That unless Self-insured MEWAs can obtain some relief from the method of taxation, be treated as the non-profits they are, and be taxed on a par with Premera Blue Cross, Self-insured MEWAs will be forced to terminate, leaving participating employers to deal with the commercial market; and

WHEREAS: Not only would this be detrimental to participating employers, but the demise of Self-insured MEWAs removes a powerful alternative for small employers to band together and provide affordable health coverage to their employees; and

WHEREAS: When the State of Alaska, like so many other states is faced with a large number of underinsured and uninsured people, we find it counterintuitive that the State should be the means of depriving small employers this alternative; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request that a tax be assessed on the same basis as Premera Blue Cross, i.e., contributions less premiums for all insured coverage including excess loss coverage and less paid claims at a rate of 6%, Self-insured MEWAs including AREBT can continue to provide coverage for the employees of participating employers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN request that the taxation be eliminated and that taxes be assessed beginning on January 1, 2006, after the appearance of the tax form on the State of Alaska's Division of Insurance web site.

SUBMITTED BY: THE ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL  
PRESIDENTS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



**OTHER**



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-39

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES NEEDING RELOCATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS: The Government Accounting Office's Report (GAO-04-142) entitled "ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES, Most Are Affected by Flooding and Erosion, but Few Qualify for Federal Assistance," identified that flooding and erosion effects 184 out of 213 villages or 86.4% of Alaska Native Villages; and

WHEREAS: Of those 184 villages affected by flooding and erosion, nine were identified as most affected and of the nine, four were identified as needing to relocate; and

WHEREAS: The unique circumstances of Alaska Native villages and their inability to qualify for assistance under a variety of federal flooding and erosion programs may require special measures to ensure that the villages receive certain needed services due to the villages inability to pay for such monumental costs of relocating communities without economic development in the individual communities; and

WHEREAS: Currently there is no one agency in Alaska tasked with the authority to provide public infrastructure development in regards to assistance needed to help communities with flooding and erosion issues such as relocation of whole communities within their own geographical areas; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that the Alaska Federation of Natives Board provide advocacy to all of the "Flooding, Erosion and Relocation needs of the most affected communities needing assistance and provide the same advocacy for governmental assistance to those communities in the future needing similar assistance.

SUBMITTED BY: SHISHMAREF NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 07-40

**TITLE:** A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN ANNUAL STATE OF ALASKA'S WILDLIFE REPORT BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS:** Alaska's wildlife resources have long been the envy of the world and the nation, representing billions of dollars in economic impact to Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS:** over the last 15 years, in several areas of Alaska, a number of Alaska's wildlife species, such as moose have suffered a dramatic decline below acceptable and sustainable population levels; and,

**WHEREAS:** all Alaskans rely on the Governor of State of Alaska to be the Chief Trustee in protecting and promoting the well being of all Alaska's resources, including wildlife for all uses including but not limited to Subsistence and Recreational uses; and,

**WHEREAS:** as the Chief Trustee, the Governor is responsible to all Alaskans for Alaska's wildlife resources and supervision of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and,

**WHEREAS:** in the last 15 years no Governor or Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner has presented Alaskans with a verifiable report documenting the health and well being of the State of Alaska's Wildlife Resource Census, including population census of critical species such as Alaska's Moose; and,

**WHEREAS:** the social, economic, cultural, and environmental value of Alaska's wildlife resources dwarf the economic value of Alaska's Permanent Fund on which the Governor and State publish detailed annual reports; and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the delegates of the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives calls upon the Governor of the State of Alaska to annually publish and present to all Alaskans a report that utilizes the latest in infra-red census technology to document the census, the health and well being of State of Alaska's Wildlife Resources, including Moose; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Alaska Federation of Natives calls on the Governor to renew her election pledge to promote and protect Alaska's declining wildlife resources in all areas of the State; and,

**BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Alaska's Wildlife Resources are Alaska's primary economic foundation, far exceeding the value of Alaska's Permanent Fund, which the State reports on annually and therefore is deserving of at least the same reporting obligation; and,

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor of Alaska be invited to present that State of Alaska's Wildlife Resource Census report annually to each and every Alaska Federation of Natives Convention from this day forward.

SUBMITTED BY: TYONEK NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 07-41

TITLE: ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES SEEKS SUPPORT TO PROTECT THE LADD LANDING HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SITE

WHEREAS: A Study was completed of the Ladd Landing area in the Cook Inlet by Stephen R. Braund & Associates for the Chuitna Coal Project; and,

WHEREAS: The Study revealed that there were over 370 house pits and caches in the Ladd Landing site of historical and cultural significance; and,

WHEREAS: The findings, if further investigated, may reveal the largest pre-contact Athabaskan community in the Cook Inlet that was an important trading center between Alaska coastal communities and the Interior Communities of the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers; and,

WHEREAS: A Chuitna Coal Project has plans to use the Ladd Landing site manner in spite of the historical and cultural significance of the site and in spite of the recommendation of this site by the coal company's own contractor that this property be preserved as a national historical importance site; and,

WHEREAS: The Tyonek Native Corporation and the Native Village of Tyonek seeks support in protecting the historical and cultural site located at Ladd Landing in the Cook Inlet; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that it strongly supports the Tyonek Native Corporation and the Native Village of Tyonek's protection of the Ladd Landing historical and cultural site.

SUBMITTED BY: TYONEK NATIVE CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER-1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



# **SUSPENSION OF RULES**

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

RESOLUTION 07-42

TITLE: THE ALASKA CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE

WHEREAS: various individuals have sponsored a citizen initiative for the State of Alaska entitled "The Alaska Clean Water Initiative" (the "Initiative"), attached as Exhibit 1 to this Resolution; and

WHEREAS: the Initiative is drafted to impact and prevent the potential development of any new mine anywhere within the State of Alaska, including on the private lands of the Alaska Native Corporations (ANC's); and

WHEREAS: ANC's have a strong interest in preserving their rights as landowners, including the right to responsibly develop their mineral interests, including metallic minerals; and

WHEREAS: the Initiative would in almost all certainty prevent the ANC's from pursuing any metallic mineral development on their lands; and

WHEREAS: any metallic mineral development the ANC's might pursue on their lands would be subject to the revenue sharing as provided under Sections 7(i) and 7(j) of the ANCSA, that benefit all ANCSA regional corporations, at-large shareholders of the same and all ANCSA village corporations; and

WHEREAS: ANC's strongly oppose the Initiative for those reasons stated in this Resolution and for other reasons; and

WHEREAS: ANC's request that the Alaska Federation of Natives oppose the Initiative.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of the Alaska Federation of Natives does hereby formally state its opposition to the Alaska Clean Water Initiative because the Initiative would adversely and unreasonably harm the property interests of landowners statewide, including Alaska Native Corporation lands entitled under the ANCSA ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the Alaska Federation of Natives directs its President, or her designee, to develop a formal position statement for the Alaska Federation of Natives, consistent with this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the Alaska Federation of Natives directs its President, or her designee, to take such other reasonable actions, consistent with the intent of this Resolution to oppose the Initiative and to work to prevent its passage.

SUBMITTED BY:           ORIE WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT/CEO DOYON LTD

CONVENTION ACTION:   PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-43

TITLE: SECTION 8(a) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The United States General Accounting Office (GAO) in Report GAO-07-1251T entitled "Alaska Native Corporations: Increased Use of Special 8(a) Provisions Calls for Tailored Oversight" which was released on September 19, 2007 calls for changes to the current Section 8(a) business development; and,

WHEREAS: The Section 8(a) program is an extremely successful program that helped many tribally owned and Alaska Native Corporations in the State of Alaska to develop robust and competitive businesses; and,

WHEREAS: In the report to the United States Congress, the GAO made 10 specific recommendations on changes to Section 8(a) business development program; and,

WHEREAS: the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) has responded to the GAO recommendations with proposed action items for changes to the Section 8(a) program; and,

WHEREAS the SBA began consulting with stakeholders on its proposed change with a hearing in Fairbanks, Alaska on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 where tribally owned corporations and Alaska Native Corporations provided testimony for consideration; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. recommend that SBA implement the following:

1. Allow protégé companies to have more than one mentor in the SBA Mentor-Protégé program to allow 8(a) companies to gain additional experience and build greater capability working with multiple mentors;
2. Allow Protégé companies to change Mentors during the transitional years in the 8(a) program if SBA concurs the mentors are not fulfilling their obligations under the Mentor-Protégé program;
3. Refrain from proposing any new rules regarding statements on ANC 8(a) contract awards; and,



4. Establish a funding level for SBA field offices based upon a ration of small businesses for SBA business opportunity specialists (BOS) that allow for greater contact between the BOS' and the 8(a) companies.

SUBMITTED BY: MANIILAQ ASSOCIAITION

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-44

TITLE: TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF LIFELINE SERVICES

WHEREAS: Lifeline Systems, Inc., provides a valuable service to people who are facing medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS: Lifeline Systems is located in the State of Massachusetts and its staff is unfamiliar with medical providers available in the State of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS: This lack of knowledge about Alaskan medical facilities results in delayed, inappropriate, and informed responses to medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS: Lifeline Systems does not adequately train family and friends who are expected to be Responders under the Lifeline system; and

WHEREAS: The family and friends of the person who needs emergency care often expect Lifeline Systems to contact at ambulance and otherwise take appropriate action, when in fact Lifeline might be expecting the family and friends to evaluate the situation and report to Lifeline what is happening; and

WHEREAS: The current situation presents an unacceptable risk to the life and health of those Alaska Natives who depend upon the Lifeline System, and represents a waste of a valuable medical resources; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby resolves that Lifeline Systems, Inc., improve the delivery of their services to the Alaska Native population; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Lifeline Systems improve the training provided to its staff who respond to emergencies in the State of Alaska; that Lifeline Systems commit to have a qualified person provide training to family members and friends who are expected to be the Responders under the Lifeline arrangement; that lifeline System commit to answer calls for help within five minutes after they receive the call; that Lifeline Systems send a management team to Alaska, including sites in urban and rural areas of the State to survey medical facilities which exist and learn the capabilities of those facilities.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-45

- TITLE: A CALL TO DEVELOP THE FIRST NATIONS COVENANT BETWEEN THE ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATIONS AND FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES TO PROTECT THE LANDS, WATERS AND SUBSISTENCE WILDLIFE RESOURCES
- WHEREAS: The Alaska Native Corporations are the largest private land owners in the state of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: The village and regional Alaska Native corporations own 10% of the lands, up to 44 million acres of the real estate in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS: Across rural Alaska there has been an explosion of sport hunters and sport fishermen creating multiple impacts ranging from shortages in fish and game resources to an intense competition with rural Alaska Natives carrying on the culture practices of hunting and fishing; and
- WHEREAS: This sport fishing and hunting industry contributes little to the local economies and well being of rural communities; and
- WHEREAS: The Alaska economy experienced intense growth with the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline which created a massive influx on residents seeking employment opportunities; and
- WHEREAS: Mega construction projects i.e. Gas Pipeline, mining and other capital projects currently being proposed guarantee economic explosions and a massive exodus of people seeking employment and the American dream; and
- WHEREAS: The state of Alaska will continue to work for equal protection of all Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS: Alaska Native villages need protection from the lucrative sport fishing industry which generated \$640 million in 2003 according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and
- WHEREAS: Recent decisions by the Secretary of the Interior, Office of Subsistence Management and the Federal Subsistence Board warrant a cohesive working relationship between all the Alaska Native Organizations to increase the influence policy makers in Washington D.C.; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN work with Alaska Native Organizations, *Federally Recognized Tribes*, village corporations, regional corporations, non-profit regional organizations in establishing the First Nations Covenant to protect the lands and wildlife resources of the Alaska Native Peoples; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of Establishing the First Nations Covenant are as follows:

1. To protect and conserve wildlife resources utilized by the Alaska Native Peoples; and,
2. To protect the subsistence way of life for the Alaska Native Peoples; and,
3. To develop a cohesive working relationship to increase the political clout of the Alaska Natives; and,
4. To close access of Alaska Native lands to sport hunters to all non—residents; and,
5. Research, identify and share with the AFN Convention a successful model of an Alaska Native Corporation that transferred land to a tribe for the protection of land, waters and wildlife resources.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

CONVENTION ACTION: REFER TO THE AFN  
BOARD

