2026 AFN RESOLUTIONS

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RECOGNITION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-01

TITLE: A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE YEAR OF BENNY BENSON – ALASKA FLAG DESIGNER – JULY 9, 2026 TO JULY 9, 2027

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: On July 9, 1927, Benny Benson first raised the Alaska flag up the flagpole at the Jesse Lee Home for Children a mile and a half north of the City of Seward with Benny's design chosen from over 700 drawings made by students grade 7 through 12 from towns all over Alaska for its simplicity, originality, and symbolism; with Benny's flag being rated in the top 8% of US flags by keeping it simple, using meaningful symbolism, using two basic colors, no lettering or seals, and being distinctive; of the 50 US state flag designers, Benny being the youngest, physically shortest, physically lightest, financially poorest, the only Native American, the only flag designer living in a home for children, and the only designer alive when 185 flags were flown to the moon on Apollo 11 in 1969; and

WHEREAS: In 1926, Alaska Governor George Parks initiated the flag contest and chose the American Legion to administer the contest at a time when many members of the American Legion belonged to the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) an organization focused on directing hatred and violence against people of color; during the flag contest Benny was living at the Jesse Lee Home for Children a mile and a half north of the City of Seward with the KKK arriving in Seward in 1925 with the goal of having 1,500 Klansmen within two months; with the KKK chartering active Klaverns (local chapters) in 16 Alaska towns including the City of Seward where they burned a cross on Fourth Avenue only days before the panel of three judges voted, giving Benny only third place to which Tlingit attorney William Paul commented that the Seward "judges" could not overlook that Benny was a swarthy (dark-skinned) Alaska Native boy; the Alaska Legislature made promises to Benny in 1927, 1939, and 1963 which the Legislature broke; in 1959 the State of Alaska awarded an honorary doctorate degree to the person who wrote the Alaska flag song (based on Benny's flag) but has awarded no degree to Benny; with the State of Alaska erasing Benny's name from the Alaska flag law and Alaska Kids' Corner; with Alaska Governor Bill Walker apologizing in 2018 for

erasing Alaska Natives from history and for wrongs endured for generations on the journey towards truth, reconciliation, and healing; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention proclaim the Year of Benny Benson from July 9, 2026 to July 9, 2027; encourages Alaskans to fly the Alaska flag; encourages Alaskans to promote activities to honor this strong young Alaska Native seventh-grade student who designed the Alaska flag; and, to encourage wrongs against Benny to be amended by July 9, 2027 on the 100-year anniversary of the Alaska flag raising as we move forward on our pathway to truth, reconciliation, and healing.

SUBMITTED BY: QAWALANGIN TRIBE OF UNALASKA
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

SUBSISTENCE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-02

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR DURABLE PROTECTIONS OF SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES AND HONORING COMMITMENTS MADE TO ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: One of AFN's core goals is subsistence and food sovereignty; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples depend upon healthy lands, waters, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources for subsistence, food security, cultural continuity, community well-being, and the exercise of traditional ways of life; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native communities need and support opportunities for sustainable economic development that create jobs, strengthen local economies, improve community well-being, and provide opportunities for future generations; and

WHEREAS: Economic and resource development must be balanced with the protection of subsistence resources and Alaska Native ways of life, recognizing that subsistence is fundamental to our cultures, communities, food security, and identity and must remain the highest priority; and

WHEREAS: As part of these balancing efforts, the state and federal governments make promises to Alaska Native communities to garner support for economic and resource development projects and to get the development approved but then change their positions afterwards, taking away the subsistence protections that were the basis of the community's support; and

WHEREAS: One such example of where the government changed its position to the detriment of the Alaska Native community is the Teshekpuk Lake Conservation Right-of-Way promised as part of the Willow Project, as approved in the 2023 Record of Decision, which AFN supported. The government granted Nuiqsut Trilateral Inc., a community organization, the Right-of-Way to fulfill Willow Mitigation Measure 27 and provide durable protection for over one million acres of important subsistence resources relied on by communities across the North Slope, but then, a year later, the government purported to cancel those protections; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native communities throughout Alaska have experienced similar changes in position working with state and federal governments on similar initiatives to find innovative ways to balance responsible development with subsistence that provides communities a meaningful voice in the pace, scale, and scope of development affecting their traditional lands, waters, and subsistence resources, only to be harmed when the government seeks to weaker or withdraw those protections after development has been approved or begun, to the detriment of subsistence resources and Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS: AFN supports efforts to provide durable, long-term protections for subsistence resources that support Alaska Native traditional ways of life, subsistence, food security, cultural continuity, and community well-being while allow them a voice in the pace, scope and scale of development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention call upon the federal and state governments to honor and fully implement commitments made to Alaska Native Tribes, Corporations, communities, and organizations to protect subsistence resources, including through durable and enforceable conservation measures, mitigation requirements, co-management arrangements, rights-of-way, easements, and other mechanisms and particularly commitments made as part of economic and resource development, permitting, environmental review, land management, and mitigation decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the federal and state governments not to rescind, weaken, or materially alter subsistence protections or commitments after development or land-management decisions have been approved, particularly when Alaska Native communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention recognize the importance of responsible resource development and economic opportunities that create jobs, strengthen local economies, and benefit Alaska Native communities, while affirming Tribal sovereignty and the ability of Alaska Native communities to have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting their traditional their lands, waters, and subsistence resources including influencing the pace, scale, and scope of development, and further affirming that development must be balanced with meaningful and durable protections for subsistence, culture, and Alaska Native ways of life, with subsistence remaining the highest priority.

SUBMITTED BY: KUUKPIK CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-03

TITLE: CALLING FOR STATE ACTIONS TO UPHOLD SUBSISTENCE PRIORITIES AND PROTECT THE FEDERAL RURAL SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized Tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to administer federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering are fundamental to the food security, cultures, economies, identities, and ways of life of Alaska Native peoples and rural communities across Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Statute 16.05.258 establishes a preference for subsistence uses within the State's fish and wildlife management system and requires, where applicable, a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses and restrictions on other consumptive uses when necessary to provide for subsistence; and

WHEREAS: Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) establishes a separate federal priority for non-wasteful subsistence uses by rural Alaska residents on applicable federal public lands and waters and recognizes the essential importance of subsistence to Native physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence and to rural residents of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Supreme Court's decision in McDowell v. State prevents the State, under the current Alaska Constitution, from limiting the State subsistence preference based upon rural residency, resulting in a dual State and federal subsistence management system in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Because the State cannot presently implement the rural residency priority required by Title VIII of ANILCA, federal implementation of Title VIII remains necessary to ensure that federally qualified rural residents receive the priority Congress established for them; and

WHEREAS: In recent years, the State of Alaska has challenged exercises of federal subsistence authority, including Federal Subsistence Board actions intended to provide rural subsistence opportunity during emergency or conservation circumstances; and

WHEREAS: In June 2025, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed Federal Subsistence Board authority under ANILCA to authorize an emergency subsistence hunt for the Organized Village of Kake after the COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted community food supply chains; and

WHEREAS: In August 2025, the Ninth Circuit affirmed a permanent injunction preventing the State of Alaska from interfering with federal implementation of ANILCA's rural subsistence priority on applicable portions of the Kuskokwim River and reaffirmed the continuing validity of the Katie John line of decisions; and

WHEREAS: Continued litigation, administrative actions, regulatory proposals, or efforts to transfer federal subsistence management authority to the State may have statewide consequences for rural subsistence users and Alaska Native communities far beyond the communities involved in any individual dispute; and

WHEREAS: Disagreements regarding jurisdiction should not result in the erosion of subsistence opportunity or the weakening of protections established under State or federal law, and Alaska Native Tribes and affected subsistence communities should have a meaningful voice before government actions are taken that may substantially affect those protections.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention affirm that protecting and providing meaningful subsistence opportunity must remain a fundamental priority in the management of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the Governor of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Department of Law, and the Boards of Fisheries and Game to administer State fish and wildlife policy in a manner that fully implements Alaska's statutory subsistence preference and avoids actions that unnecessarily diminish subsistence opportunity or interfere with federally protected rural subsistence uses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN opposes any transfer, delegation, restructuring, or relinquishment of federal subsistence management authority to the State of Alaska unless the resulting management system fully maintains the rural subsistence priority and other protections required by Title VIII of ANILCA; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the State of Alaska to establish meaningful consultation with federally recognized Tribes and engagement with affected subsistence communities before initiating or advancing major litigation, administrative actions, or policy changes that could materially reduce or alter federally protected rural subsistence opportunity.

SUBMITTED BY: THE TATITLEK CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-04

TITLE: CALLING FOR SUBSISTENCE TO BE A MEANINGFUL PRIORITY IN ALASKA FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples have harvested, managed, protected, and maintained relationships with salmon since time immemorial, and salmon remain fundamental to food security, cultures, languages, economies, and the intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge; and

WHEREAS: Alaska law establishes a subsistence preference when harvestable fish and wildlife resources are insufficient to provide for all consumptive uses, requiring reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses and, when necessary, restrictions on other consumptive uses consistent with AS 16.05.258; and

WHEREAS: Congress recognized the importance of subsistence through Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and Section 804 provides that the taking of fish and wildlife on federal public lands for non-wasteful subsistence uses shall be accorded priority over the taking of fish and wildlife on such lands for other purposes, subject to applicable conservation requirements; and

WHEREAS: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act governs fisheries in federal waters and National Standard 9 requires conservation and management measures, to the extent practicable, to minimize bycatch and, to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch; and

WHEREAS: Conservation of declining salmon stocks is necessary, but the burden of conservation should be shared equitably among users and across fisheries rather than falling disproportionately on subsistence families and communities; and

WHEREAS: Salmon migrate across broad marine areas before returning to Alaska rivers, and mortality occurring in marine fisheries can affect salmon stocks relied upon by subsistence users far from where that mortality occurs; and

WHEREAS: Advances in genetic stock identification, spatial and temporal information, real-time reporting, and avoidance tools provide opportunities to better understand and reduce impacts to Alaska salmon stocks; and

WHEREAS: Recent genetic stock composition analysis of Chinook salmon bycatch in federally managed Alaska fisheries demonstrates the value of identifying bycatch by stock of origin and provides managers with improved information to understand which Alaska salmon populations are affected; and

WHEREAS: Salmon taken as bycatch in federally managed marine fisheries include stocks relied upon by Alaska subsistence communities, and when subsistence needs are not being met or subsistence harvest opportunities are restricted, NOAA Fisheries, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Alaska, federal subsistence managers, and affected Tribes should coordinate across their respective management jurisdictions to evaluate and address bycatch impacts and share conservation responsibility throughout the salmon life cycle.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates of the 2026 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon the State of Alaska and federal agencies with subsistence and fisheries management authority to uphold and implement the subsistence protections and priorities established under the laws applicable to their respective jurisdictions, and to ensure that conservation burdens are not disproportionately placed upon Alaska Native subsistence users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon NOAA Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to carry out their responsibilities under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, including National Standard 9, by using the best available science, stock-of-origin information, spatial and temporal data, and effective avoidance measures to minimize salmon bycatch and bycatch mortality to the extent practicable, particularly for salmon stocks supporting communities experiencing subsistence restrictions, closures, or unmet subsistence needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls for coordinated action among the State of Alaska, federal subsistence managers, NOAA Fisheries, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, affected Tribes, and other agencies with relevant authority when salmon stocks important to subsistence are affected across multiple fisheries and management jurisdictions, including sharing stock-specific information and considering mortality throughout the salmon life cycle so that conservation responsibility does not fall disproportionately upon subsistence users; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN calls for transparent stock-specific bycatch reporting, meaningful Tribal consultation and participation in fisheries management decisions affecting subsistence resources, incorporation of Indigenous

Knowledge and the best available science, and measurable management actions to protect salmon stocks important to Alaska subsistence communities.

SUBMITTED BY: CURYUNG TRIBAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-05

TITLE: REQUIRING MEANINGFUL SUBSISTENCE IMPACT ANALYSIS IN STATE AND FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Customary and traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering are fundamental to Alaska Native culture, food security, health, economies, identity, and the transmission of knowledge between generations; and

WHEREAS: Fish and wildlife resources important to subsistence are managed through multiple state and federal systems, including the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game, the Federal Subsistence Board, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and other federal resource management agencies; and

WHEREAS: Management decisions concerning harvest levels, allocations, bycatch, seasons, methods and means, habitat, closures, and other regulatory actions may individually or cumulatively affect the abundance, availability, and accessibility of resources relied upon by Alaska Native and rural communities; and

WHEREAS: Subsistence impacts extend beyond pounds of harvest and include food security, sharing networks, access to traditional harvest areas, cultural practices, community well-being, economic conditions, and the ability to transmit traditional knowledge and harvesting practices to future generations; and

WHEREAS: Existing decision-making processes do not consistently require agencies and management bodies to clearly identify, analyze, and disclose these subsistence impacts before taking actions that may affect Alaska Native and rural communities; and

WHEREAS: National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires federal fishery conservation and management measures to take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities and to provide for their sustained participation, and federal guidance recognizes communities that share a dependence on subsistence fishing; and

WHEREAS: Alaska law provides for customary and traditional subsistence uses and reasonable opportunity for subsistence, yet Alaska Native communities continue to experience declining access to resources and management decisions that do not fully account for the cultural, social, and food-security consequences of lost harvest opportunity; and

WHEREAS: AFN Resolution 24-01 called for a Native-led framework for fish and wildlife management and full integration of Indigenous Knowledge into management decisions, and AFN Resolution 25-33 affirmed Traditional Knowledge as a valid and essential source of expertise in government decision-making; and

WHEREAS: Meaningful consideration of subsistence requires more than an opportunity to provide public testimony and should include a transparent analysis demonstrating how a proposed management action may affect Alaska Native and rural subsistence users and how those impacts were considered in the final decision.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention call upon state and federal fish and wildlife management agencies and regulatory bodies to establish and implement a formal Subsistence Impact Analysis for major management actions that may substantially affect customary and traditional uses of fish and wildlife; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Subsistence Impact Analysis should, as appropriate, evaluate:

1. Impacts to the abundance, availability, and accessibility of subsistence resources;
2. Impacts to harvest opportunity, food security, sharing networks, cultural practices, and intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge;
3. Cumulative impacts from competing uses, international and domestic intercept, habitat changes, environmental conditions, prior management actions, and other reasonably foreseeable pressures on the resource;
4. Traditional Knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge, local observations, community harvest information, and recommendations provided by Tribes, Regional Advisory Councils, Tribal organizations, and affected subsistence communities;
5. Reasonable management alternatives or mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts to subsistence users while meeting conservation requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when a management body adopts an action that is reasonably expected to adversely affect subsistence opportunity, the final decision should clearly explain the anticipated subsistence impacts, how Tribal and subsistence-user recommendations were considered, why alternatives with lesser impacts were not selected, and what measures will be taken to avoid or minimize harm; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the State of Alaska, the United States Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, the Federal Subsistence Board, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and other appropriate management bodies to work with Alaska Tribes and Alaska Native organizations to develop consistent standards for meaningful subsistence impact analysis and reporting; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN shall advocate for any statutory, regulatory, administrative, or policy changes necessary to ensure that subsistence impacts are meaningfully evaluated, publicly disclosed, and considered before major fish and wildlife management decisions affecting Alaska Native and rural subsistence communities are made.

SUBMITTED BY: THE TATITLEK CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-06

TITLE: PROTECTING THE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, RURAL SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY, AND MEANINGFUL ALASKA NATIVE AND RURAL REPRESENTATION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering are fundamental to the food security, cultures, economies, identities, and intergenerational well-being of Alaska Native peoples and rural communities throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) establishes a priority for rural subsistence uses on federal public lands and waters and provides for meaningful participation by rural residents through the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Subsistence Board and Regional Advisory Councils provide an essential mechanism for rural subsistence users to participate directly in federal fish and wildlife management decisions affecting their communities and ways of life; and

WHEREAS: In January 2026, the United States Supreme Court declined to review United States v. Alaska, leaving intact longstanding federal authority to implement the rural subsistence priority under Title VIII of ANILCA, including protections established through the Katie John line of cases; and

WHEREAS: The United States Departments of the Interior and Agriculture are currently reviewing the Federal Subsistence Management Program, including the membership of the Federal Subsistence Board, criteria for Regional Advisory Council membership, special action authorities, rural determinations, and the role of the State of Alaska in the federal program; and

WHEREAS: Changes that diminish the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board, reduce meaningful representation of rural subsistence users and Alaska Native peoples, weaken the role of the Regional Advisory Councils, or undermine the rural

subsistence priority would threaten the ability of Alaska Native and rural communities to protect their subsistence needs and ways of life; and

WHEREAS: Any changes to the Federal Subsistence Management Program must be developed through meaningful government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Tribes and meaningful engagement with Regional Advisory Councils, Alaska Native organizations, ANCSA corporations, and rural subsistence users.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention affirm their strong support for the rural subsistence priority established under Title VIII of ANILCA and for a Federal Subsistence Management Program that maintains meaningful Alaska Native and rural subsistence participation in decision-making; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN opposes administrative, regulatory, or legislative changes that would weaken the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board, reduce meaningful representation of rural subsistence users and Alaska Native peoples on the Board, diminish the role or statutory influence of the Regional Advisory Councils, or transfer federal subsistence authorities in a manner that weakens the rural subsistence priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to ensure that any changes proposed through the current Federal Subsistence Management Program review strengthen, rather than diminish, the ability of rural subsistence users and Alaska Native communities to participate meaningfully in the management of the fish and wildlife resources upon which they depend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls for meaningful Tribal consultation and Regional Advisory Council engagement before any regulatory changes are released for public comment proposed changes to the Federal Subsistence Management Program are advanced or implemented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges all federal and state management authorities to uphold the federal trust responsibility to explicitly protecting tribal seats and integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge seamlessly into all fish and game management decision-making; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN shall continue to actively monitor the Federal Subsistence Management Program review and advocate before the Administration, Congress, and appropriate federal agencies for the protection and strengthening of federal subsistence rights, the rural priority, Regional Advisory Councils, and meaningful Alaska Native participation in subsistence management.

SUBMITTED BY: THE TATITLEK CORPORATION AND NATIVE VILLAGE OF POINT HOPE
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-07

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TRIBAL-LED MARICULTURE AND TRIBAL CO-MANAGEMENT OF MARICULTURE PERMITTING IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples across the state have stewarded the marine waters, tidelands, and subsistence resources of their traditional territories since time immemorial, and hold inherent sovereign authority and traditional ecological knowledge essential to the sustainable development of mariculture; and

WHEREAS: Mariculture — including shellfish and kelp farming — presents a significant opportunity to advance food security, economic diversification, workforce development, and climate resilience for Alaska Native communities, many of which face limited economic opportunity and high costs of living; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska and federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), are in the process of identifying Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) in Gulf of Alaska state waters through a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement process, and Tribes and other Native organizations have sought status as cooperating agencies in that process to ensure Tribal priorities, subsistence uses, and cultural resources are protected; and

WHEREAS: Existing state and federal permitting frameworks for mariculture — spanning agencies including NOAA, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and processes under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) — impose delays, costs, and administrative burdens that disproportionately limit Tribal entities and other Native organizations' ability to participate in and lead mariculture development; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Mariculture Cluster (AMC), established through a $49 million federal Economic Development Administration award administered by the Southeast Conference, includes an approximately $9.3 million revolving loan fund of which fifty percent (50%) is targeted to Indigenous and distressed communities and twenty-five percent (25%) is earmarked specifically for Alaska Native entities,

alongside workforce development programs and a seat for Tribal governance representation on the AMC's Governance Body.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention affirms its support for Tribal leadership and centrality in the planning, development, permitting, and management of mariculture activities throughout Alaska, and calls upon federal and state governments to recognize Tribal governments as sovereign governmental partners in mariculture planning, permitting, and management — not merely as applicants or stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls on NOAA, NMFS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other relevant federal and state agencies to grant Tribes cooperating agency status in the Aquaculture Opportunity Areas Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement process and any successor mariculture siting or permitting processes in Alaska waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges federal and state agencies to establish expedited, Tribally-centered permitting pathways for Tribal mariculture applicants, including streamlined review timelines, technical assistance, and formal co-management agreements between Tribes and permitting authorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge into mariculture planning, permitting, research, and monitoring, consistent with Tribal protocols and Tribal data sovereignty over culturally sensitive and biological information Tribes share with agencies, researchers, or other entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska Mariculture Cluster, the Southeast Conference, and other administrators of mariculture funding to fully implement and, where possible, expand the Indigenous and Alaska Native set-asides within the $9.3 million revolving loan fund, and to ensure meaningful, ongoing Tribal governance representation on the AMC's Governance Body; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports and advocates for the development of model Tribal co-management templates, permitting guidance, and technical assistance resources, in coordination with Tribal mariculture initiatives statewide, for member Tribes seeking to enter or expand mariculture operations.

SUBMITTED BY: KETCHIKAN INDIAN COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-08

TITLE: ADVOCATING FOR STRENGTHENED INDIGENOUS CO-MANAGEMENT ROLES TO PROTECT MARINE RESOURCES AND ENSURE TRIBAL FOOD SECURITY

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Marine mammals—specifically bowhead whales (Agviq), seals (Ugruk and Qasigiaq), walruses, beluga whales, fish, and polar bears—form the cornerstone of culture, spirituality, language, social structure, and nutritional well-being for Alaska Native people and coastal Alaska Native communities statewide; and

WHEREAS: The escalating impacts of climate change, including receding sea ice, unpredictable weather patterns, and warming Arctic waters, are rapidly disrupting marine habitats and creating unprecedented challenges for subsistence hunters; and

WHEREAS: Increasing industrial activity, commercial shipping corridors, and resource exploration in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas present severe, compounding threats to the migration patterns, health, and availability of vital marine resources; and

WHEREAS: Current federal and state co-management frameworks under laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Whaling Convention Act often position tribal entities as advisory bodies rather than equal sovereign partners, limiting the direct application of Indigenous Knowledge in wildlife management and policy decision-making; and

WHEREAS: True food security for Alaska Native communities can only be achieved when Tribes possess recognized, robust, and self-determining authority over the stewardship and protection of the ancestral waters and species that sustain them.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives formally advocate for a fundamental restructuring of existing co-management agreements to establish true, equitable partnership roles between federally recognized tribes and federal/state regulatory agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges that all regulatory policies, harvest quotas, and conservation strategies affecting Arctic and coastal marine mammals explicitly incorporate and defer to Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) alongside contemporary scientific data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the federal and state governments to expand direct funding and legislative support for tribal-led monitoring, research, and enforcement programs, empowering Alaska Native people to manage their ancestral waters proactively; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC), the Ice Seal Committee, and all relevant regional tribal and corporate organizations.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF POINT HOPE
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-09

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE WESTERN ALASKA SALMON RECOVERY FRAMEWORK THROUGH TRIBAL STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Since time immemorial, American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes have depended upon healthy salmon runs to sustain their cultures, economies, food security, spiritual traditions, and communities, and many salmon stocks throughout the country, have experienced severe declines in recent years, resulting in unprecedented restrictions on subsistence harvests, economic hardship, threats to food security, and significant impacts on the health and cultural continuity; and

WHEREAS: Congress has enacted laws and ratified treaties-such as the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which establishes a rural subsistence priority on federal public lands and waters under Title VIII, the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Pacific Salmon Treaty-to protect salmon, sustain the subsistence Way of Life, and uphold the fishing rights and trust obligations owed to Alaska Native and other Tribal communities, and healthy, abundant salmon populations are essential to fulfilling the purposes of these authorities across Alaska and the nation; and

WHEREAS: Recent years have highlighted growing concerns regarding salmon bycatch, habitat degradation, changing ocean conditions, and fisheries disaster declarations affecting Tribal communities across the nation, and especially throughout Alaska, and recent State and Federal actions affecting rivers, navigable waters, and management authorities underscore the need for coordinated action and meaningful Tribal participation in decisions affecting the lands, waters, fisheries, and subsistence resources upon which Alaska Native and other Tribal communities depend; and

WHEREAS: Ensure fair and meaningful Tribal consultation by providing timely, good-faith, government-to-government consultation and public comment periods of no less than ninety (90) days on actions affecting subsistence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AFN calls for the development and advancement of a Western Alaska Salmon Recovery Framework that restores abundant salmon populations while strengthening Tribal stewardship, protecting subsistence, supporting sustainable fisheries, and preserving Our Way of Life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Alaska Salmon Recovery Framework shall be guided by the following principles: (**1**) Restore Salmon Abundance through coordinated federal, state, Tribal, and regional action to rebuild healthy, sustainable salmon populations for future generations; (**2**) Protect Subsistence by ensuring management decisions sustain the subsistence Way Of Life and recognize salmon's central role in Tribal food security and culture; (**3**) Strengthen Tribal Stewardship by expanding Tribal co-stewardship, habitat restoration, monitoring, Indigenous Knowledge, and meaningful participation in fisheries management; (**4**) Advance Science-Based Sustainable Fisheries Management by improving stock assessments and monitoring, ensuring transparent, ecosystem-based decisions, and reducing bycatch and other sources of salmon mortality; (**5**) Support Subsistence-Dependent Communities by protecting the rural subsistence priority, strengthening fisheries disaster assistance, and investing in resilient infrastructure and food security; (**6**) Increase Government Coordination and Accountability by fostering collaboration among Tribes, the State, federal agencies, and Congress, supported by measurable outcomes and long-term investment; (**7**) Build Tribal Stewardship Capacity by funding Tribal natural resource departments, technicians, monitoring, habitat restoration, and Indigenous Knowledge initiatives to sustain recovery over the long term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon Congress and federal agencies to provide stable, long-term investment in salmon habitat restoration, scientific research, fisheries monitoring, Indigenous Knowledge initiatives, and Tribal stewardship capacity to protect subsistence and Our Way of Life throughout Indian Country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; Congress; and the relevant federal and state agencies, bureaus, and organizations with authority over Alaska and Indian Country fisheries, subsistence, and resource management necessary to effect change and implement this framework.

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

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-10

TITLE: CALLING FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT TO STRENGTHEN TRIBAL REPRESENTATION, PROTECT SUBSISTENCE, AND ADVANCE TRIBAL CO-STEWARDSHIP

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: AFN Resolutions 13-6 (2013), 15-4 (2015), and 21-3 (2021) have repeatedly called for Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) reform, including greater Tribal representation, stronger recognition of subsistence, climate-responsive fisheries management, and protection of Alaska Native fishing interests; and

WHEREAS: Despite these longstanding positions, Alaska's federally recognized Tribes still lack dedicated voting representation on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and adequate statutory recognition of Tribal governments, subsistence, Indigenous Knowledge, and Tribal stewardship responsibilities; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native communities face declining salmon returns, reduced access to traditional foods, bycatch, warming waters, shifting species, habitat loss, and other cumulative pressures that threaten food security, culture, economies, and ways of life; and

WHEREAS: Alaska’s fisheries support an interconnected community of Tribal governments, Alaska Native organizations subsistence users, fishermen, fishing communities, processors, scientists, and others whose knowledge and experience contribute to sustainable fisheries management; and

WHEREAS: Alaska includes many small, rural, and remote Tribal communities that may face significant capacity and geographic barriers to sustained participation in federal fisheries management processes; and

WHEREAS: Federal consultation policies may allow Tribes to authorize Tribal organizations or other representatives to participate in consultation on their behalf while preserving Tribal sovereignty and government-to-government consultation; and

WHEREAS: Meaningful consultation must occur early enough for Tribes to influence fisheries decisions, with durable opportunities for Tribal co-stewardship and collaborative governance beyond consultation and public comment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention calls upon Congress to reauthorize and modernize the MSA to recognize the unique status, interests, knowledge systems, and stewardship responsibilities of federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native peoples; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon Congress to amend the MSA to establish no fewer than two dedicated voting Tribal seats on the NPFMC, with representatives nominated through a process led by Alaska federally recognized Tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MSA should require Indigenous Knowledge alongside western science, while protecting Tribal ownership, governance, confidentiality, attribution, and control over Indigenous Knowledge and Tribal data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and NOAA Fisheries should strengthen Tribal consultation, climate-informed and ecosystem-based fisheries management, and evaluation of impacts at regional, stock, and community scales so that coastwide abundance does not obscure severe localized impacts to Tribal communities and traditional fishing areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal fisheries agencies should recognize the ability to designate Tribal organizations, consortia, inter-Tribal fish commissions, or other authorized representatives to provide information, expertise, and representation on their behalf, without diminishing Tribal sovereignty or replacing direct government-to-government consultation when requested; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and NOAA Fisheries should establish and adequately fund Tribal co-stewardship, including cooperative research, community-based monitoring, Tribal science and Indigenous Knowledge, salmon and bycatch research, habitat restoration, and meaningful Tribal participation in fishery management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN reaffirms Resolutions 13-6, 15-4, and 21-3 and calls upon Alaska's Congressional Delegation to center Tribal representation, subsistence, salmon and bycatch conservation, Indigenous Knowledge, climate resilience, and Tribal co-stewardship in future MSA legislation.

SUBMITTED BY: CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
COMMITTEE ACTION:DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-11

TITLE: ALASKA NATIVE FOODS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Traditional Alaska Native food (Herein 'Native Food') is important for being healthy; and

WHEREAS: Native food is important because it helps you learn skills like smoking fish, cutting meat, hunting, and more; and

WHEREAS: Native food is important for your culture to keep it alive, it can also express your culture.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention requests Alaska Native food and skills continue to be taught to our youth.

SUBMITTED BY: FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE - THE 2025 ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS – Committee suggested no edits to keep voices of Elders & Youth
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-12

TITLE: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE TRIBAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Our young people are the continuation of our Tribes—the carriers of our languages, our ways of life, and the responsibilities handed down by our ancestors; thus, the wellbeing of our youth is inseparable from the wellbeing of our Tribes, and every young life is irreplaceable in values that Alaska Native communities hold within our cultures, Elders, traditional healers, and relationships the knowledge and strength required to navigate crisis, but have consistently been denied the direct resources and authority to act on that knowledge; and

WHEREAS: No mechanism currently exists for a Tribe to obtain immediate federal support during a behavioral health crisis, as existing federal funds move through competitive grant cycles requiring weeks or months leaving Rural Alaska Tribal communities, including those represented by the Alliance of Sovereign Tribes of Southeast Alaska (ASTSA), lack year-round access to licensed behavioral health providers and are geographically isolated from regional hub communities without road connectivity; and

WHEREAS: Communities recognize when their youth are struggling well before a tragedy occurs—through observations in schools, clinics, and homes—and a Tribe must possess the legal authority to act on that knowledge and receive immediate support at the moment of recognized need and outside interventions cannot substitute for the sustained presence of trusted, local individuals; permanent behavioral health positions filled by Alaska Native providers and prevention rooted in each Tribe’s culture, language, and relationships form the true foundation of emergency response; and

WHEREAS: Much of Alaska's behavioral health infrastructure is state-administered, creating operational gaps if a framework is limited to federal agencies; therefore, any emergency framework must uphold Tribal sovereignty by ensuring the affected Tribe determines whether to declare a crisis, selects culturally appropriate

responders—including traditional healers and Elders—and directs the response within its jurisdiction; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention call upon the United States Congress to enact legislation establishing the Tribal Behavioral Health Emergency Declaration Framework, comprising sustained prevention investment and two tiers of assistance—an Elevated Risk Advisory and a Behavioral Health Emergency—and to require the Indian Health Service (IHS), SAMHSA, the CDC, and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) to implement said Framework within 180 days of enactment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that following the precedent established by the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013, the Chief Executive of an affected Tribe may submit a request for a declaration under either tier directly to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), and that the Tribe's determination of conditions within its own community shall be accorded deference; the Secretary shall act upon such request within 48 hours, and a request not acted upon within that period shall be deemed granted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Tribe may request an Elevated Risk Advisory upon indicators recognized by the Tribe — including increases in self-harm-related clinic or emergency visits, crisis line or 988 contacts, reports of domestic violence, reports from Tribal schools, or a traumatic event affecting the community — which shall immediately make available non-competitive prevention funding, technical assistance, and, at the Tribe's request, an advisory support team, with the option to escalate to a Behavioral Health Emergency should conditions warrant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Tribe may declare a Behavioral Health Emergency upon a suicide, suicide attempt, escalating domestic violence, or when local capacity is exceeded, any of which shall trigger direct funding to the Tribe for local hiring, Elders, traditional healers, or external contractors; federal personnel shall deploy only at the Tribe's request, operate under exclusive Tribal direction, and demobilize immediately upon Tribal demand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates call for a dedicated annual set-aside of at least five percent (5%) of Indian Health Service and SAMHSA behavioral health appropriations to permanently fund this Framework; and call for permanent, non-competitive, formula-based funding to sustain at least one local behavioral health position per one thousand (1,000) service population, with hiring and retention preference given to local Alaska Native providers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that assistance made available under the Elevated Risk Advisory and Behavioral Health Emergency tiers of this Framework is intended to complement, integrate with, and maximize rather than replace existing state, federal, and Tribal behavioral health resources, and that AFN authorizes the

immediate transmittal of this resolution to the United States Congress, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Governor of the State of Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: KETCHIKAN INDIAN COMMUNITY, THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES AND THE ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAAN
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-13

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING SELF-GOVERNANCE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) authorizes Tribes and Tribal organizations to be funded by the Federal government to provide services that the Federal government would otherwise be obligated to provide due to the trust and treaty obligations of the United States; and

WHEREAS: Self-determination and self-governance under the ISDEAA have led to a significant improvement in the daily lives of Alaska Native and American Indian individuals; and

WHEREAS: The success of the ISDEAA prompted Congress in 2000 to establish permanent Tribal Self-Governance in the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Title V of the ISDEAA; and

WHEREAS: Title V authorizes participating Tribes to redesign IHS programs, and redirect funds supporting those programs, in any manner that the Tribes determine is in the best interest of their communities; and

WHEREAS: Title VI of the ISDEAA, enacted in 2000, Congress envisioned expanding Self-Governance to include grant programs administered by other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and

WHEREAS: In 2003, HHS issued a study concluding such an expansion was feasible and identifying eleven HHS programs that could be integrated into Self-Governance; and

WHEREAS: In 2004, the Senate considered legislation to authorize a demonstration project implementing Title VI, but that legislation was not enacted; and

WHEREAS: Expansion of Self-Governance within HHS is the next logical step to promote Tribal sovereignty, improve health care services, and has remained a top priority of Tribes as referenced in Alaska Native Health Board resolution 04-2021; and

WHEREAS: Small Alaska Tribes, as defined by BIA regulations as Tribes 1,500 or less members, highlight the difficulty competing for grants with larger Tribes who have more resources available and while formula disbursement may reduce funding, distribution by tribal shares adjustment formula with a floor amount through Title VI self-governance expansion would afford small Tribes the opportunity to reprogram, re-budget, and redesign as their local needs demand; and

WHEREAS: Tribes have drafted legislation, modeled on the 2004 Senate bill, that would establish a demonstration project expanding Self-Governance to specified programs administered by non-lHS agencies within HHS; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 AFN Annual Convention hereby fully supports establishing a demonstration project to implement Title VI of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

SUBMITTED BY: KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE AND THE ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH BOARD
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-14

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ADOPTION OF A STATEWIDE "FEATHER ALERT" MODEL AND A STANDARDIZED "MISSING ADULT ALERT" FORMAT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The safety and wellbeing of Alaska Native people and all Alaskans requires timely, clear, and consistent public notification when urgent circumstances arise; and

WHEREAS: Missing-person cases require rapid and coordinated action by law enforcement, emergency management, communications partners, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS: Public safety alerts that use consistent terminology and a standardized message format help reduce confusion, increase public recognition, and improve the likelihood of recovery; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management currently uses existing alert systems, including **Amber Alerts** and a **Silver Alert**, to communicate urgent missing-children and elder information; and

WHEREAS: AFN recognizes the value of these existing alert systems while also identifying a need for additional, standardized alert communications to better address missing-person circumstances involving Indigenous people and other missing-adult cases; and

WHEREAS: The State of California has established a "Feather Alert" model for missing-person communications, including alerts that specifically address missing Indigenous people and provides a model for Alaska to emulate and learn from; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native communities have distinctive cultural, geographic, and communication needs, and an Alaska's response systems would benefit from a statewide, culturally appropriate, easily recognizable missing-person alert format; and

WHEREAS: AFN supports a coordinated state and local effort that improves safety outcomes and strengthens community resilience; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention request that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and relevant public safety partners to adopt and implement a statewide Feather Alert model based on the California approach for missing-person communications, including cases involving missing Indigenous people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the adoption of a standardized statewide Missing Adult Alert format for urgent missing-adult cases, using clear issuance criteria and a consistent public-facing message structure and AFN urges participating agencies and stakeholders to collaborate on the following implementation elements:

- Clear, consistent criteria for when a Feather Alert and when a Missing Adult Alert is issued;
- Standardized required message elements for each alert type (including, as applicable, identifying information, description, last-known location, date/time, photograph if available, and appropriate contact information for leads)
- A consistent alert layout and wording so alerts are recognizable to the public across Alaska;
- Culturally respectful communication practices and accessibility, including translation and formats appropriate for Alaska communities; and
- Training, coordination, and operational guidance for dispatch and communications personnel; and
- Collaboration with the VPSO Coordinators to ensure a statewide system is able to work in rural Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges periodic evaluation of alert outcomes—such as timing, public reach, and effectiveness, so Alaska may continuously improve alert performance and community trust; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Alaska, the Alaska State Legislature, and the relevant state agencies responsible for public safety communications and emergency management, and to other partners as appropriate.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-15

TITLE: ENCOURAGING OUR TRIBES TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN YOUTH

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Too many lives have been lost due to substance abuse, especially in our youth; and

WHEREAS: Substance abuse decreases decision making abilities, leads to addiction, and destroys how one sees the world; and,

WHEREAS: Youth have more chance of getting into substance abuse without knowing the effects. Because so many people are doing it in communities, youth think it's cool.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention requests that we want our Tribes to host meetings and potlucks to prevent substance abuse, so our new youth don't get addicted.

SUBMITTED BY: FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE - THE 2025 ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS – Committee suggested no edits to keep voices of Elders & Youth
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-16

TITLE: ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MODEL FOR AN AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BASELINE CAPACITY FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Tribal Nations are a unique and vital part of the United States emergency management system, and Tribal governments, especially those along the Arctic, Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas, are often the first and sometimes only governmental presence and emergency responders for rural and isolated communities; and

WHEREAS: Across Indian Country, Tribal Nations have been impacted by disasters at devastating levels and continue to face gaps in baseline homeland security and emergency management capacity; and

WHEREAS: In Extreme Remote America, geography, extreme remoteness, and rapidly changing climate conditions create recurring, high-consequence emergencies that routinely exceed local capacity and require rapid coordination among Tribal, local, state, and federal partners; and

WHEREAS: In September 2022, Typhoon Merbok devastated dozens of Alaska Native communities along more than a thousand miles of coastline, and in October 2025 the remnants of Typhoon Halong caused catastrophic flooding, mass evacuations, and widespread damage, demonstrating how rapidly escalating, high-latitude storms overwhelm local response systems and require Arctic-ready coordination, communications, logistics, and locally based response capacity; and

WHEREAS: Emerging Tribally led initiatives illustrate a hub-and-spoke model for Extreme Remote America that, like the State of Alaska rural health framework, can strengthen prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery and should inform emergency management in remote regions; and

WHEREAS: Interoperable emergency communications are essential for life-safety operations across Indian Country and Extreme Remote America, enabling Tribes and village-based responders to communicate seamlessly with neighboring jurisdictions and state and federal partners during all-hazards incidents; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's Indigenous homelands sit along the Nation's Arctic and Bering Sea coasts, requiring resilient, community-based emergency management and public safety capacity that strengthens statewide disaster readiness and advances national and international Arctic security; and

WHEREAS: Achieving measurable emergency management baseline capacity across Indian Country by 2030 will require sustained, multi-year operational and capital funding; a trained locally based workforce; interoperable communications; equipment and facilities; and formal mutual aid and coordination agreements that respect Tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS: A National American Indian and Alaska Native Emergency Management Baseline Capacity Framework (the "Framework") should establish measurable baseline standards across core capability pillars, including formal mutual aid and coordination agreements that respect Tribal sovereignty; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention call upon the federal government, and all relevant partners to establish a National American Indian and Alaska Native Emergency Management Baseline Capacity Framework, prioritizing a Tribally informed, hub-and-spoke model, and to build baseline capacity and interoperable operational communications essential to saving lives, protecting infrastructure, and supporting sovereign, community-centered response and recovery in Extreme Remote America and across Indian Country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the federal government and all relevant agencies, in coordination with Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations, to prioritize interoperable emergency communications and operational coordination for Tribal jurisdictions nationwide, including in Alaska and Extreme Remote America, so responders have reliable, resilient communications for all-hazards response, including large-scale storms, wildfires, floods, and mass evacuations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon Tribes, Tribal consortia, local governments, states, and federal partners nationwide to develop and execute formal, Tribally informed mutual aid and coordination agreements, including protocols for incident coordination, resource ordering, staging, evacuation, sheltering, continuity of government, and reimbursement, consistent with Tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relationships.

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

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-17

TITLE: ESTABLISHING FEDERAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL WATER AND SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Access to safe and reliable drinking water and wastewater service is fundamental to public health, community well-being, and the continued viability of rural Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS: The federal government, through the Indian Health Service (IHS), Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, and other programs, has invested billions of dollars in water and sanitation infrastructure serving Alaska Native communities through planning, design, construction, replacement, and system improvements; and

WHEREAS: Current federal funding overwhelmingly prioritizes construction while providing insufficient support for ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) necessary to sustain federally funded water and sanitation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: IHS has historically interpreted Sanitation Facilities Construction funding as unavailable for routine operation and maintenance costs, such as operator wages and utility expenses, except for limited training, technical assistance, equipment, and emergency support; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's extreme conditions, aging infrastructure, high operating costs, limited local revenues, and workforce and supply challenges significantly increase the cost and difficulty of maintaining water and sanitation systems may of which were poorly designed; and

WHEREAS: Inadequate O&M funding has contributed to the deterioration and failure of federally funded sanitation infrastructure, threatening public health, increasing replacement costs, undermining federal investment, and contributing to

emergencies such as the March 2026 Northwest Arctic disaster declaration and prolonged service loss in Ambler; and

WHEREAS: Infrastructure failures often result from cumulative operational, maintenance, environmental, and financial challenges rather than a single isolated event; and

WHEREAS: Additionally, the use of a cost benefit ratio in the IHS Sanitary Deficiency System to rank proposed projects makes it unfair or unreasonable for higher cost projects to be considered because of the low rate of return on a per person basis; and

WHEREAS: Federal law already recognizes a federal role in sustaining Tribal sanitation infrastructure. Section 302 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1632, authorizes IHS to provide operation and maintenance assistance for Tribal sanitation facilities when necessary to avoid a health hazard or protect the federal investment in those facilities; and

WHEREAS: Recent federal court decisions, including *Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe v. United States* (2026) and *Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter* (2012), reaffirm that federal law authorizes support for Tribal sanitation system O&M and that Tribal assumption of federal responsibilities must be accompanied by adequate federal resources; and

WHEREAS: Federal self-determination laws recognize that transferring federal responsibilities to Tribes without adequate resources undermines Tribal self-determination and the federal trust responsibility to Tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention calls upon Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Indian Health Service, and other federal agencies that fund Tribal water and sanitation infrastructure to establish a durable and adequately funded federal mechanism for the O&M of Tribal water and sanitation systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should provide dedicated, recurring appropriations for water and sanitation O&M that are sufficient to support the actual costs of sustaining federally funded infrastructure,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Administration should align applicable statutes, appropriations language, regulations, policies, and program guidance so that federal water and sanitation infrastructure funding may support lifecycle O&M costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal O&M assistance should support, not supplant, Tribal ownership, strengthen local capacity, preserve local control, and enable regional and inter-Tribal solutions where desired by communities.

SUBMITTED BY: NANA REGIONAL CORPORTATION, KIKIKTAGRUK INUPIAT CORPORATION & MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

1 # EDUCATION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-18

TITLE: ALASKA CULTURE

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: So, we don't forget who we are; and

WHEREAS: So, we can learn about the past in our schools and more into our culture such as with our traditional foods, dance, and tradition; and

WHEREAS: To find family and ancestors will also improve our way of life like that of our ancestors, such as with games in Native Youth Olympics (NYO).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention should communicate about Native American culture on field trips like berry picking, fishing, and elders and youth.

Submitted by: FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE - THE 2025 ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS– Committee suggested no edits to keep voices of Elders & Youth
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-19

TITLE: SUPPORT ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S NEW MULTI-MEMBER GOVERNANCE MODEL TO BECOME AN ALASKA NATIVE UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: In Alaska, Indigenous governance is deeply rooted in diverse tribal nations, Native Corporations established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), and longstanding traditional systems of knowledge and leadership. Alaska Pacific University (APU) is reimagining Tribal Higher Education through becoming a self-determined Alaska Native University now instead of waiting to meet the Federal designation requirements; and

WHEREAS: The founder of APU, Peter Gordon Gould, an Unangaŷ man, recognized a deep need "for Indigenous leadership reared, educated, and trained in Alaska for Alaska." In 2017, the university restructured and renewed its focus on Alaska Native students, reaffirming Gould's vision of cultivating Indigenous leadership rooted in Alaska. APU can apply for Federal Tribal University status once the institution reaches the necessary Indigenous student population of more than 50% (currently serve 33-38% Alaska Native students). APU is currently designated as an "Alaska Native-Serving Institution," a subset of the Minority-Serving Institution designation; and

WHEREAS: Elder Lucy Sparck thoughtfully objected to this term, noting that it reflects federal patriarchy rather than true self-determination and thus APU is redefining higher education in Alaska by advancing a self-determined model of a Tribally governed Alaska Native University that uplifts Indigenous knowledge, strengthens community partnerships, and ensures Indigenous leadership continues to guide the university's future. APU leads with humility and care—for one another, for knowledge, and for the lands and waters that sustain us; and

WHEREAS: APU serves Alaska Native people by blending Indigenous knowledge with Western academics, achieving high Native graduation rates, and nimbly offering programs identified and implemented in partnership with tribal communities and corporations based on what they need; and

WHEREAS: APU strives to be an Alaska Native University through continued Tribal Governance guided by Alaska Native peoples, accountable to Indigenous communities, and grounded in place. This identity shapes everything APU does—from what we teach to how we lead. By interweaving Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems to become worthy stewards of Indigenous knowledge systems and to grow leaders who will carry that responsibility forward. And strives to be a place where even more Alaska Native students thrive as they seek higher education; and

WHEREAS: APU aims to uphold its commitment to Alaska Native communities through implementing a new multi-tiered governance membership model beginning in 2026. This new structure invites Tribes, Tribal organizations, Alaska Native Corporations, and allies to help build a transformed and sustainable education foundation for future generations. The model strengthens post-secondary opportunities for Alaska Natives and APU's future by expanding and diversifying its governance leadership membership, welcoming partners to provide guidance and support at the board level and fostering shared responsibility for the benefit of current and future students. It reaffirms APU's ongoing work as a self-defined Alaska Native University, ensuring that Tribes and Tribal organizations remain central to decision-making and leadership.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention request AFN to lend support to Alaska Pacific University in transforming higher education for Alaska Native students and others in Alaska and beyond by encouraging AFN delegates and member organizations to help strengthen Indigenous governance in higher education through participating in APU's transformational new multi-member governance model.

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

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-20

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION, TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE, AND PERMANENT FEDERAL FUNDING

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Indigenous languages are the foundation of Tribal identity, governance, health, education, culture, and intergenerational continuity; and

WHEREAS: The United States government, through decades of federal policy — including but not limited to boarding schools, forced assimilation, and prohibition of Indigenous languages — actively sought to extinguish Tribal languages, resulting in measurable and ongoing harm and language loss is directly linked to adverse outcomes in physical health, behavioral health, education attainment, community cohesion, and governance capacity and Tribal Nations retain inherent sovereignty and the right to determine and administer language revitalization according to their own priorities, across generations and across geographic borders; and

WHEREAS: Competitive, discretionary, short-term grant funding has proven inadequate, inefficient, and inconsistent with Tribal self-determination, often forcing Tribes into competition with one another for the remediation of federally caused harm; and

WHEREAS: Effective language revitalization requires long-term certainty, intergenerational planning horizons, workforce development, immersion education, health integration, and the ability to braid and move funds flexibly across programs and Existing self-governance authorities — including Public Law 93-638 and Public Law 102-477 — demonstrate that flexible, Tribal-directed funding produces better outcomes, stronger accountability, and lower administrative burden; and

WHEREAS: Language revitalization must be fully integrated across education, health, behavioral health, elder services, and community wellness, including within Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) programs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention calls upon Congress and the Administration to establish permanent, non-competitive federal funding for all eligible Tribal Nations to revitalize their languages, honoring it as a federal trust responsibility free from rankings or caps and secure non-discretionary advance appropriations to ensure long-term, multi-generational budget stability without statutory caps or pilot limits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN commits to apply self-governance principles so Tribes can independently design, manage, and fund their own strategies, including immersion schools, curriculum development, and archives and affirm Tribal sovereignty by allowing each Nation to designate a Tribal organization or consortium to manage these funds and permit P.L. 102-477 plan integration**,** allowing flexible fund movement across education and health sectors, while creating permanent line items in both the BIA and IHS to integrate language into wellness and community programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such funding shall be administered under self-governance principles, allowing Tribes to design, manage, and evaluate their own language revitalization strategies, including immersion schools, master-apprentice programs, curriculum development, technology, archives, and community-based transmission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such funding shall explicitly allow for work across state, regional, and international borders, and for inter-Tribal collaboration, reflecting the reality of Indigenous languages that predate and transcend modern political boundaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this funding framework shall establish broad national eligibility and accountability standards while preserving local Tribal control over design, metrics, timelines, and outcomes, grounded in the explicit acknowledgment that language revitalization is not a discretionary cultural program, but a federal obligation arising from historic and ongoing federal actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress, the Administration, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, and all relevant federal agencies to act collaboratively with Tribal Nations to implement this resolution without delay; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution affirms language as living governance infrastructure — essential to Tribal sovereignty, health, education, and the future of Indigenous Nations.

SUBMITTED BY: METLAKATLA INDIAN COMMUNITY & KETCHIKAN INDIAN COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-21

TITLE: SUPPORTING ACADEMIC CREDIT AND CREDENTIAL PATHWAYS FOR TRIBAL TRAINING PROGRAMS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SYSTEM

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized Tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to administer federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Tribes, tribal health organizations, tribal consortiums, nonprofit organizations, and Alaska Native corporations provide workforce development, leadership, cultural, subsistence, professional, and community-based educational programs that serve thousands of Alaska Native people annually; and

WHEREAS: Many of these tribal training programs contain rigorous curricula competency-based assessments, measurable learning outcomes, instructional hours, and practical experience comparable to coursework offered through institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS: The recognition of tribal training programs for academic credit, prior learning assessment, or credentialing opportunities would reduce barriers to higher education, accelerate degree completion, lower educational costs, strengthen student retention, and increase educational attainment among Alaska Native students while helping address statewide workforce shortages; and

WHEREAS: The University of Alaska system has a long history of partnering with Alaska Native communities and organizations, and expanded pathways recognizing tribal workforce development, Indigenous knowledge systems, and culturally grounded educational experiences would strengthen tribal self-governance, healthcare, education, public administration, economic development, environmental stewardship, and community well-being throughout Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention support the development of formal partnerships between the University of Alaska system and federally recognized Tribes, tribal health organizations, tribal consortiums, Alaska Native corporations, and other Alaska Native organizations to evaluate tribal training programs and establish pathways for academic credit ,

prior learning assessment, credential recognition, and degree advancement, consistent with institutional, faculty, and accreditation standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the University of Alaska Board of Regents, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Southeast, and all affiliated community campuses to establish consistent statewide policies and procedures for reviewing tribal training programs and workshops and developing articulation agreements, credentialing pathways, and credit-bearing opportunities and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that credit-bearing opportunities should be available, where applicable, across academic disciplines including but not limited to Tribal Governance, Alaska Native Studies, Rural Human Services, Social Work, Behavioral Health, Business Administration, Public Administration, Education, Early Childhood Development, Public Health, Environmental Studies, Emergency Management, Natural Resource Management, Leadership Development, Alaska Native Languages, and other workforce-related fields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN encourages the University of Alaska system and Alaska Native organizations to jointly identify funding opportunities, grants, and innovative approaches that expand access to higher education and create stackable credentials, certificates, occupational endorsements, apprenticeships, and degree pathways for Alaska Native students and tribal employees statewide; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the University of Alaska system, federally recognized Tribes, and Alaska Native organizations to work collaboratively and, where appropriate, through government-to-government relationships with federally recognized Tribes to develop pathways that recognize tribal workforce development, cultural knowledge, leadership training, and professional education as valuable components of higher education and lifelong learning for the benefit of Alaska Native communities throughout Alaska.

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

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-22

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED RULE, AT 91 FEDERAL REGISTER 51248, "REDUCING FEDERAL BURDEN FOR HEAD START PROGRAMS" AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED AND CALLING FOR MEANINGFUL TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND PROTECTION OF COMPREHENSIVE HEAD START SERVICES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start programs have a unique governmental, cultural, and community role and operate within the federal government's trust responsibility and government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Tribes, Tribes possess inherent sovereignty, and the Head Start Act specifically requires consultation with Tribal governments operating Head Start programs; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's Head Start programs serve over 3,000 students in over 100 communities across Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Head Start programs in many rural and remote Alaska communities operate under circumstances of geographic isolation, limited housing and facilities, workforce shortages, high transportation and operating and administrative costs, limited health and behavioral health services, and few or no alternative early childhood programs; and

WHEREAS: The proposed rule would significantly reduce federal requirements and defer more extensively to state and local laws and child-care standards in areas affecting the operation and delivery of Head Start services; and

WHEREAS: The proposed rule would eliminate or reduce beneficial federal requirements concerning bus monitors, staff-to-child ratios and group-size requirements, health and mental health services, family and community engagement, family service worker caseloads, transportation practices, program monitoring and

continuous improvement, and other elements of the comprehensive Head Start model; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native children should not receive diminished protections or comprehensive services simply because state child-care systems, workforce capacity, transportation systems, health services, or other infrastructure available in remote Alaska communities differ from those available elsewhere in the nation; and

WHEREAS: Reducing unnecessary administrative requirements and providing reasonable local flexibility can be beneficial to Tribal Head Start programs, but regulatory reform should strengthen the comprehensive services, safety protections, cultural responsiveness, family engagement, and school-readiness mission of Head Start.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives opposes the proposed rule *Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs*, as currently proposed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives supports efforts to reduce administrative burden and provide appropriate local and Tribal flexibility, provided that such reforms do not diminish child health and safety, educational quality, cultural and language preservation, reduce administrative allowable costs to unsustainable levels; or other essential elements of the comprehensive Head Start model; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives calls upon the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families to conduct meaningful government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Tribes, including Alaska Tribes before proceeding with a final rule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Department to specifically evaluate the effects of any proposed changes on Alaska Native communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Department to withdraw or substantially revise the proposed rule and develop any future changes in partnership with Alaska Tribes, and Tribal Organizations.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:

LAND, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCES

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-23

TITLE: CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE STATE AND FEDERAL ACTION TO STABILIZE ENERGY COSTS AND STRENGTHEN ENERGY SECURITY FOR ALASKA NATIVE FAMILIES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Rural and remote communities face energy costs substantially higher than communities connected to Alaska's road system because of their geographic isolation, limited infrastructure, small ratepayer bases, reliance on imported diesel fuel, seasonal delivery constraints, and the rising costs of transportation, storage, insurance, and regulatory compliance; and

WHEREAS: The 2025 report "Energy Burden in Alaska," using U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Census Bureau data, found that Alaska households spend an average of 4.3 percent of household income on energy, compared with 2.7 percent in the Lower 48, while the lowest-income Alaska households spend a median of 22.9 percent of their income on energy; and

WHEREAS: Alaska has the nation's largest share of census tracts with high or severe household energy burdens, with 14.7 percent of census tracts at or above six percent and 8.5 percent experiencing severe burdens above ten percent; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Energy Authority reports that electricity costs in participating rural communities can be three to five times higher than rates in Alaska's more urban communities, and many rural communities remain dependent on small, isolated diesel systems that cannot benefit directly from major interconnected energy projects; and

WHEREAS: Long-term energy affordability requires sustained investment in efficiency, weatherization, renewable energy, bulk fuel infrastructure, local generation, interties, workforce development, and other community-led solutions that reduce reliance on imported fuel; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Tribes must be meaningfully included in the development, funding, ownership, and governance of energy policies and projects affecting their communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the State of Alaska, the Alaska Legislature, Congress, and federal agencies to take immediate and sustained action to stabilize energy costs for Alaska Native families and rural communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urge the State of Alaska to establish a rural energy-cost stabilization mechanism that can respond when fuel or electricity costs rise rapidly, supply disruptions occur, or household energy burdens exceed established affordability standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urge the State of Alaska to provide direct assistance to eligible rural utilities, fuel providers, Tribal governments, communities, and households while including appropriate accountability, consumer protections, and safeguards against disconnection during periods of extreme weather or energy emergencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate for increased and sustained state and federal investment in Tribal and community-led energy projects, including residential and public-building weatherization, energy-efficiency improvements, renewable generation, battery storage, heat recovery, heat pumps where feasible, bulk fuel storage improvements, electrical interties, microgrids, and modernization of aging utility infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding programs prioritize communities experiencing high or severe household energy burdens and provide flexible, accessible funding that recognizes the limited administrative capacity of small rural Tribes and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska work in formal partnership with Tribes, regional Tribal organizations, rural utilities, and Alaska Native organizations to improve the collection and public reporting of community-level information on electricity rates, fuel prices, household energy burden, bulk fuel loan balances, infrastructure needs, and the effectiveness of energy-assistance programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that energy policies and projects affecting Alaska Native communities respect Tribal sovereignty, require early and meaningful Tribal consultation, protect subsistence resources, and support Tribal ownership and local decision-making; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN make rural energy affordability and energy security a statewide advocacy priority and work with the Alaska Federation of Natives, other Alaska Tribes, regional organizations, utilities, the State of Alaska, and

federal partners to develop and advance immediate relief and long-term solutions that stabilize energy costs for Alaska Native families and communities.

SUBMITTED BY: CURYUNG TRIBAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-24

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORTING EFFORTS AND CALLING FOR AN END OF HEAVY FUEL OIL AND EXHAUST GAS SCRUBBER DISCHARGE IN ALASKA WATERS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: AFN affirmed in Resolution 25-03 that subsistence is the Alaska Native Way of Life and the cornerstone of Tribal sovereignty, health, resilience, and cultural survival and that protecting historic, traditional, and sacred lands and waters is vital for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS: The continuous, unregulated discharge of heavy fuel oil (HFO) exhaust residue and exhaust gas scrubber washwater into traditional, tribally governed waters constitutes an ongoing intrusion on subsistence resources, public health, and cultural continuity; and

WHEREAS: In 2010, the IMO mandated cleaner ship fuels, but regulations allowed exhaust scrubbers as an alternative. To save costs, cruise lines began widely installing open-loop scrubbers in 2015. Instead of switching fuels, these systems spray seawater through toxic exhaust and continuously dump the hot, acidic wastewater—laden with heavy metals and toxins—into the ocean; and

WHEREAS: According to EPA records, vessels using open-loop scrubbers reported more than 700 water quality violations off the Alaska coast between 2023 and 2024 alone, with scientific studies showing that scrubber wastewater disrupts marine organism reproduction and development at concentrations as low as one part per million; and the use of HFO and exhaust scrubbers increases black carbon and particulate emissions compared to low-sulfur distillate fuels, while perpetuating the severe risk of persistent, difficult-to-clean oil spills in cold northern waters; and

WHEREAS: Large ocean-going vessels already operate successfully without HFO or open-loop scrubbers within National Marine Sanctuaries, the waters of Hawaii, the Port of Seattle, within 24 miles of California, and within the Arctic Circle under MARPOL Annex I, Regulation 43A, with no negative impacts to the shipping or cruise industries; and

WHEREAS: The Inside Passage and the Gulf of Alaska face a disproportionate risk from this pollution, which threatens marine ecosystems statewide. Compelled by industrial pollution and climate change to expend vital resources protecting their traditional territories, some Alaskan Tribal Governments strongly oppose HFO use and scrubber discharge; and

WHEREAS: Under U.S. trust responsibility and Executive Order 13175 for Tribal consultation, 2026 AFN Convention delegates call on shipping and cruise industries to immediately end heavy fuel oil (HFO) use and scrubber washwater discharge in all Inside Passage waters, within 12 miles of the Alaska coast, and near traditional Native territories; and

WHEREAS: NOAA, Alaska and Native Organizations are identifying Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in the Gulf of Alaska while Tribes seek cooperating agency status to protect cultural and subsistence priorities, yet complex current permitting rules create delays and costs that limit Tribal participation and leadership in mariculture development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention calls on trade associations, including CLIA and ATIA—to publicly back the transition from HFO and scrubbers to cleaner marine distillate fuels. Additionally, AFN supports member Tribes and regional consortia, like SEITC, in coordinating joint resolutions, advocacy, and legal action against HFO use and scrubber discharge in Alaska waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates empower AFN to support member Tribes in pursuing every available legal and government-to-government avenue to end such discharges, including agency petitions, formal consultation, Clean Water Act authority, and direct agreements with ports and vessel operators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls on federal, state, and local governments to ban HFO, accelerate the transition to clean marine distillate fuels in Alaskan waters, and conduct meaningful, government-to-government consultations with impacted Tribes for the co-management and enforcement of these standards; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN calls on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to close the MARPOL scrubber loophole worldwide and within Emission Control Areas (ECAs), affirms Alaska Native self-determination as the foundation for protecting traditional waters, and authorizes the transmittal of this resolution to the State of Alaska, relevant federal agencies, and international bodies.

SUBMITTED BY: KETCHIKAN INDIAN COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE ACTION: REFER TO BOARD
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-25

TITLE: OPPOSING RESCISSION OF THE 2001 ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE AND PROTECTING ROADLESS AREAS IN ALL ALASKA NATIONAL FORESTS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The Tongass and Chugach National Forests are the only National Forests in the State of Alaska and encompass millions of acres within the homelands and customary and traditional use areas of Alaska Native peoples and provide resources essential to Alaska Native cultures, subsistence practices, fisheries, wildlife, clean water, cultural resources, and the economic and social well-being of communities throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (2001 Roadless Rule) provides a longstanding federal baseline protecting Inventoried Roadless Areas from new road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting, subject to limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS: Intact landscapes are particularly important to Alaska Native communities because roads and associated development can fragment habitat, alter fish and wildlife populations and distribution, increase competition for subsistence resources, impair access to traditional use areas, and adversely affect cultural resources places of cultural importance, and traditional ways of life; and

WHEREAS: Maintaining healthy, accessible, and productive fish and wildlife populations and the intact habitats that sustain them within Alaska’s national forest is therefore critical to fulfilling the federal subsistence priority and protecting the health and wellness of Alaska Native communities for generations to come; and

WHEREAS: The United States Department of Agriculture on August 18, 2026, proposed rescission of the 2001 Roadless Rule nationwide, specifically including its targeted application to the Tongass National Forests, placing existing roadless protections on Alaska's national forests at risk; and

WHEREAS: Rescission would remove a uniform federal protective baseline and place greater reliance on individual forest plans and project-level decisions to determine

whether roads, timber harvest, and other development occur in areas that currently retain roadless protection; and

WHEREAS: The environmental review should meaningfully analyze Alaska-specific alternatives that affirmatively retain strong roadless protections on both the Tongass and Chugach National Forests and account for cumulative effects on subsistence resources, fisheries, wildlife, watersheds, cultural resources, and Alaska Native ways of life; and

WHEREAS: The federal government's Trust Responsibility to Alaska Native peoples requires meaningful, timely, and government-to-government consultation where federal actions may affect subsistence resources, cultural resources, customary and traditional uses, and other Tribal interests.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention strongly oppose the August 18, 2026, proposed rescission of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule insofar as it would eliminate or weaken roadless protections on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service to select Alternative 1 (No Action) and retain strong, enforceable roadless protections on Alaska's national forests and to develop Alaska-specific alternatives that preserve these protections while allowing appropriate exceptions for public safety, subsistence access, wildfire response, habitat restoration, cultural resources, valid existing rights, and other lawful purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN reminds the federal government that protecting subsistence resources is a federal priority for Alaska Native and rural Alaskan community wellness, including food security, cultural continuity, intergenerational knowledge, social cohesion, and the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of Alaska Native peoples; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls for meaningful, timely, and government-to-government consultation with affected Alaska Native Tribes and organizations throughout the rulemaking and environmental review process, including consultation regarding alternatives, cumulative effects, subsistence impacts, cultural resources, customary and traditional uses, and measures necessary to protect Alaska Native interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the President, Congress, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Forest Service to maintain durable protections for Alaska's remaining roadless landscapes and to manage Alaska's national forests in a manner that honors the federal subsistence priority and respects the cultural, subsistence, economic, and environmental interests of Alaska Native peoples; and

SUBMITTED BY: CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-26

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO STRENGTHEN ENERGY SECURITY AND RESILIENCE IN RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The 2025 AFN delegates passed resolution 25-23 which resolved "To Improve Energy Security in Rural Alaska Communities Through Bulk Fuel Investments and Enhanced Energy Programs," and

WHEREAS: Significant investments in Alaska's bulk fuel facilities and energy infrastructure were made during Federal Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026; however, substantial additional investments are needed to address deferred maintenance, system modernization, and long-term energy reliability needs of rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS: AFN, Tribal Governments, Tribal Organizations, and community leaders have consistently emphasized the importance of reliable, affordable, and resilient energy systems as a cornerstone of community health, economic development, and public safety; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska, through the Alaska Energy Authority and other partner agencies, has prioritized reducing energy costs and improving the reliability of energy systems throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs recognize Tribal energy security, energy sovereignty, and community resilience as critical components of sustainable Tribal development; and

WHEREAS: Rural Alaska communities experience some of the highest energy costs in the nation and face unique challenges resulting from extreme weather events, climate-driven impacts, geographic isolation, limited transportation access, workforce shortages, and aging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: Workforce development, utility operator training, technical assistance, emergency preparedness planning, energy management education, and community energy planning are essential components of long-term energy security and resilience; and

WHEREAS: Continued investment in bulk fuel systems, power generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure, renewable energy technologies, energy storage systems, and energy efficiency measures will improve reliability, strengthen local capacity, reduce energy burdens, and increase community resilience to natural disasters, economic disruptions, and other emergencies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention request the support of policies, programs, and investments that strengthen energy security and resilience in rural Alaska communities through reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress, the Administration, the State of Alaska, Tribal Governments, and public/private funding partners to prioritize investments that enhance the reliability, resilience, modernization, and long-term sustainability of Alaska energy infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN continues to support the expansion of energy workforce development, utility operations training, technical assistance, community energy planning, and emergency preparedness programs that increase local capacity and self-reliance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocates for sustained federal and state support to address deferred maintenance, modernization, and resilience needs across rural Alaska energy systems, including bulk fuel facilities repair and replacement, electric utility upgrades, renewable energy project and energy storage development, and related infrastructure; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN shall continue working in partnership with Tribal Governments, Tribal organizations, federal and state agencies, utilities, and community stakeholders to advance energy security, energy sovereignty, affordability, reliability, and resilience throughout Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: KAWERAK, INC.
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-27

TITLE: ADVOCATING FOR A STATEWIDE TRANSITION FROM OBSOLETE AMPY PREPAID METERING SYSTEMS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Small rural utilities throughout Alaska are operated by Tribes, municipalities, cooperatives, and other local entities that provide essential services with limited financial, technical, and administrative resources; and

WHEREAS: Prepaid metering is an important tool for many small rural utilities because it supports customer billing and energy management, improves collections, and contributes to the financial stability of locally operated electric systems; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 42 rural Alaska communities across multiple regions of the state rely on AMPY prepaid metering systems, which are no longer in production, have increasingly limited replacement components, and depend on specialized technical knowledge to remain operational; and

WHEREAS: Replacement technology must be appropriate for remote Alaska conditions, including limited or unreliable broadband, affordability, local technical capacity, cybersecurity, long-term technical support, and the ability to maintain prepaid electric service; and

WHEREAS: Failure of unsupported metering systems can impair billing and collections, increase administrative burdens, and threaten the financial stability of small utilities that depend on timely revenue to purchase fuel, maintain infrastructure, and provide reliable electric service; and

WHEREAS: There is no publicly available comprehensive statewide assessment of the condition of existing AMPY systems, remaining replacement components, system vulnerabilities, replacement priorities, or the capital investment necessary to transition affected utilities to supported technology; and

WHEREAS: State agencies support rural utilities through Power Cost Equalization, technical assistance, utility training, infrastructure assessment, and rural power system upgrades, positioning the state to coordinate a statewide response; and

WHEREAS: AFN has passed numerous resolutions supporting statewide rural energy planning, infrastructure investment, technical assistance, local capacity, and Tribal participation, and addressing obsolete AMPY infrastructure is a specific next step in advancing those priorities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives call upon AFN to advocate with state agencies for a statewide inventory and condition assessment of AMPY prepaid metering systems, including system condition, remaining replacement equipment and technical support, vulnerabilities, replacement priorities, and estimated capital needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate for state agencies, including AEA, to be in partnership with affected Tribes, municipalities cooperatives, rural utilities, and appropriate technical partners, to identify and test vendor-neutral replacement technologies suitable for remote Alaska and capable of preserving the benefits of prepaid electric service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate for state agencies to develop a statewide transition plan establishing replacement priorities, estimated costs, implementation timelines, procurement strategies, training needs, long-term technical support, and compatibility with Power Cost Equalization and local utility operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate with the Governor, Alaska Legislature, Alaska Congressional Delegation, applicable state agencies and appropriate federal partners for sufficient and sustainable capital investment to implement the statewide transition, utilizing existing rural energy infrastructure programs where appropriate and developing additional funding pathways where needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate for implementation of the statewide transition plan in partnership with affected utilities, prioritizing systems at greatest risk of failure and ensuring support for equipment replacement, installation, local training, and long-term technical assistance; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN advocate that any state or federal assistance for replacement of obsolete prepaid metering infrastructure preserve Tribal and local utility ownership, management authority, and decision-making over community energy systems and not require consolidation, transfer of ownership, or loss of local control as a condition of receiving assistance.

SUBMITTED BY: THE TATITLEK CORPORATION and THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF TATITLEK
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-28

TITLE: ADDRESSING THE RURAL ALASKA FUEL COST CRISIS AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ENERGY SECURITY

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Affordable and reliable access to fuel is essential to life in rural Alaska for electricity generation, home heating, transportation, subsistence activities, and the operation of critical community infrastructure; and

WHEREAS; Extraordinary fuel costs threaten household affordability, food security, and the continuation of subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities that are fundamental to Alaska Native culture and community well-being, while also increasing the cost of operating water and sewer systems, schools, clinics, Tribal services, utilities, and public safety infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: Many rural Alaska communities rely on a short seasonal delivery window to receive a year's supply of fuel and are vulnerable to disruptions caused by low water, weather, transportation constraints, infrastructure limitations, and rapidly changing fuel prices; and

WHEREAS: Communities across Alaska are experiencing severe fuel affordability challenges, including Shungnak, where gasoline reached $26.82 per gallon in August 2026 after low water conditions on the Kobuk River disrupted barge deliveries and required fuel to be transported by air; and

WHEREAS: When limited community resources are consumed by extraordinary energy costs, operation and maintenance of essential infrastructure is often deferred, accelerating deterioration and increasing long-term costs; and

WHEREAS: Rural bulk fuel storage facilities are critical to reducing energy costs by allowing communities to receive and store fuel during economical seasonal delivery periods, yet many facilities are aging or deficient and the Denali Commission has

estimated that rural Alaska faces more than $1 billion in bulk fuel infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS: AFN recognizes and appreciates the recent $100 million federal investment through the Denali Commission for rural bulk fuel infrastructure, while acknowledging that substantially greater and sustained investment will be required to address the statewide backlog; and

WHEREAS: Existing programs, including Power Cost Equalization, do not adequately protect rural households, Tribes, utilities, local governments, and subsistence users from extraordinary increases in the cost of gasoline, diesel, heating fuel, etc.; and

WHEREAS: The current fuel cost crisis requires both immediate relief to prevent hardship and long-term investments that strengthen rural Alaska's fuel security and reduce vulnerability to future supply and price disruptions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention calls upon Congress, the Administration, and the State of Alaska to provide immediate emergency financial assistance for Alaskan communities experiencing extraordinary fuel costs, including direct fuel subsidies or other rapidly deployable mechanisms capable of reducing fuel costs for households, Tribes, local governments, utilities, and essential services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska should utilize and, where necessary, temporarily expand existing energy assistance and rural fuel financing programs while coordinating with the federal government to deploy additional emergency resources as quickly as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress to provide the Denali Commission with at least $100 million annually for the next ten years for rural Alaska bulk fuel infrastructure in order to address the state's more than $1 billion backlog of facility needs and allow sufficient flexibility to support improvements, O&M, prevent facility failures and fuel spills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Administration should work with Alaska Native Tribes, regional organizations, rural utilities, the State of Alaska, and other partners to develop a long-term rural fuel security strategy that improves fuel storage capacity, strengthens procurement and delivery systems, reduces vulnerability to transportation disruptions, and supports locally appropriate energy efficiency and energy diversification efforts that reduce dependence on imported fuel over time.

SUBMITTED BY: NANA REGIONAL CORPORTATION, KIKIKTAGRUK INUPIAT CORPORATION & MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-29

TITLE: REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE U.S DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TO DELAY THE REVOCATION OF PUBLIC LANDS WITHDRAWN UNDER ANCSA §17(D)(1) AND PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAND ORDER 5150

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: In 1971 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was adopted to settle aboriginal land title claims with Alaska Natives and ANCSA § 17(d)(1) directed the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw public lands throughout Alaska to protect the public interest in such lands, including protecting subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering on such lands; and

WHEREAS: Since 1972, millions of acres throughout Alaska have remained withdrawn as 17(d)(1) lands (d-1 lands) and protected for subsistence uses under the priority established through Title VIII of ANILCA; and

WHEREAS: The Secretary, through the Bureau of Land Management, has announced the intent before the end of 2026 to revoke the withdrawal of all remaining d-1 lands in Alaska, totaling about 28 million acres, making these lands available to the State of Alaska, mineral development, and oil and gas leasing; and

WHEREAS: Under ANILCA, subsistence protections apply only on federal public lands – lands that are selected by the State of Alaska, or are disposed of through leases are in most cases no longer protected for subsistence; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to Title VIII of ANILCA, before taking an action to revoke protections for federal public lands and open them to other uses, the Secretary is required to conduct a Section 810 analysis of the potential impacts on subsistence; and

WHEREAS: The Secretary has made clear that despite the potential loss of ANILCA subsistence hunting rights on millions of acres of customary and traditional subsistence hunting territory, the Department of Interior does not intend to

conduct a new Section 810 analysis on the impact on subsistence uses and steps to minimize those impacts before revoking d-1 lands in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Under the Alaska Statehood Act, the State is entitled to about 103 million acres of land and has received all but about 3.8 million acres of this entitlement; and

WHEREAS: Federal laws governing State land entitlements under the Statehood Act allow the State to select 125% of its remaining entitlement from available federal lands and the Department of Interior has allowed the State to over-select lands by more than 300%; and

WHEREAS: The acreage of State over-selected lands will substantially increase when the Secretary revokes protections for all remaining d-1 lands when the State top-filings will automatically attach once the 17(d)(1) protections are revoked; and

WHEREAS: State over-selection has a significant negative impact on federal rural subsistence because State-selected lands are not covered by Title VIII of ANILCA but instead are governed by State hunting and fishing regulations; and

WHEREAS: State over-selection is also used to improperly deny Alaska Native Vietnam-Era Veteran Land Allotment Program allotments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Interior delay any action revoking lands currently withdrawn under ANCSA 17(d)(1) and PLO 5150 until the Secretary:

1. Conducts a new and thorough analysis under Section 810 of ANILCA that includes full consultation with impacted Alaska Tribes and ANCSA Corporations, and which includes provisions to minimize the lands subject to revocation and the impacts on subsistence uses and resources on lands included in the revocation; and
2. Requires the State of Alaska to reduce its land selections to no more than the amount required by law, 125% of its remaining entitlement under the Statehood Act, and to prioritize its valid selections according to the mandate of applicable laws; and
3. Recognizes no further State selections, including top-filings, upon the revocation of ANCSA 17(d)(1) and PLO 5150 if such selections would result in State selections greater than the 125% of the State's total entitlement as allowed by law.

SUBMITTED BY: AHTNA, INC.
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES 2026
ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-30

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A MORATORIUM ON SEABED MINING TO PROTECT ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE, TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY, AND OCEAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples have lived in relationship with and stewarded Alaska's oceans, coastal waters, marine ecosystems, and subsistence resources since time immemorial, and these relationships remain foundational to our cultures, food security, economies, health, and ways of life; and

WHEREAS: The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) initiated a leasing process for seabed minerals on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf on January 29, 2026, for regions covering more than 113 million acres in the Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, Goodnews Bay, Norton Sound, and the Arctic; and

WHEREAS: Multiple Alaska Native Corporations, Tribes, and Tribal consortiums submitted letters of concern or opposition, including over 90,000 public comments, to the BOEM's Request for Information and Interest in early 2026—with a potential lease sale for seabed mineral extraction to occur as soon as 2027; and

WHEREAS: Commercial seabed mining on the Outer Continental Shelf has never occurred globally or in United States federal waters; no federal leases have ever been issued, and the Marine Mineral Administration is proposing to sell leases that last a minimum of 20 years—the length of a human generation; and

WHEREAS: Seabed mining is subject to a fragmented, unpredictable, and changing federal regulatory regime, and seabed mining is an unproven and experimental industry that could cause sediment plumes, underwater noise and pollution, destruction or alteration of benthic habitat, and impacts throughout marine food webs, including to Essential Fish Habitat and culturally and economically important species; and serious harm to human health; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native communities and marine ecosystems are already experiencing cumulative pressures from climate change, declining salmon returns, vessel

traffic and industrial activity, pollution, changing ocean conditions, and other environmental stressors; and

WHEREAS: Robust environmental and sociocultural baseline information does not exist for many deep sea and seabed areas being considered for seabed mineral leasing, and meaningful evaluation must include cumulative effects, Indigenous Knowledge, subsistence and cultural relationships, reasonable alternatives including a no-lease alternative, and the technical and financial assurances for mitigation, response, restoration, and remediation; and

WHEREAS: The federal government has Trust Responsibilities and obligations to federally recognized Tribes and must engage in meaningful government-to-government consultation before decisions that may adversely affect Tribal resources, cultures, subsistence rights, and ways of life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention support a moratorium on the exploration, leasing, and extraction of seabed mineral resources in Alaska federal waters and on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf until environmental, subsistence, cultural, socioeconomic, and cumulative impacts are evaluated and understood and affected Alaska Native Tribes have been fully and meaningfully consulted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the Department of the Interior to suspend further consideration of seabed mineral lease sales and refrain from proceeding to a Proposed Leasing Notice during this moratorium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future consideration of seabed mineral development must include meaningful government-to-government Tribal consultation; robust environmental, subsistence, socioeconomic, and cultural baseline studies; meaningful and respectful incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge and protection of Tribal data sovereignty; and a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement evaluating direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and reasonable alternatives, including a no-lease alternative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the federal government to take a precautionary approach to seabed mineral development and uphold Tribal sovereignty, federal trust responsibilities and obligations, subsistence rights, Indigenous Knowledge, and Alaska Native peoples' enduring relationships with the ocean; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual Alaska Federation of Natives Convention request that the Alaska Legislature, State of Alaska, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, and relevant federal agencies support these policies and advocate for a moratorium on seabed mineral exploration, leasing, and extraction where such activities could threaten Alaska Native peoples, subsistence resources, fisheries, communities, and marine ecosystems.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA, KAWERAK, INC. AND CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA
INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 26-31

TITLE: SECURING CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUNDING AND DISASTER REFORMS FOR EXPOSED ARCTIC COASTLINES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Despite historical adaptation measures—including a proactive village relocation in the mid-1970s—the current community site faces severe, compounding environmental hazards accelerated by Arctic climate change, including annual coastal erosion rates exceeding three feet per year, intense storm flooding, and catastrophic permafrost thaw; and

WHEREAS: These intersecting hazards directly jeopardize irreplaceable cultural heritage sites, ancestral burial grounds, and traditional underground ice cellars (siglaugs) that serve as the foundational baseline for local community nutrition and food security; and

WHEREAS: Chronic erosion actively undermines critical community infrastructure, specifically threatening the solitary 7-Mile Road, which represents the village's only overland evacuation route during extreme weather events, serves as direct access to the primary community drinking water source, and connects hunters to inland subsistence areas; and

WHEREAS: Extreme geographic isolation, severe Arctic logistical constraints, and exorbitant construction costs significantly amplify the structural vulnerability of coastal and Arctic Alaska Native communities, placing necessary infrastructure adaptations far beyond the scope of local tribal budgets; and

WHEREAS: Existing federal hazard mitigation and emergency frameworks—such as those under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—frequently exclude or restrict access for remote Alaska Native villages due to prohibitive cost-share matching requirements, complex application bureaucracies, and a rigid statutory failure to recognize gradual, slow-

onset climate destruction as a declarable disaster; and

WHEREAS: Essential engineering interventions, dynamic gravel revetments, armored sand dunes, and comprehensive long-term village relocation framework planning require stable, dedicated, and flexible financial streams that honor the federal trust responsibility to Alaska Native tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention formally request that the United States Federal Government and the State of Alaska establish expanded, dedicated, and flexible funding mechanisms specifically structured for exposed Arctic coastlines to support long-term community relocation planning, defense-in-place infrastructure, and proactive climate adaptation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN demands federal and state agencies provide non-matching, fully funded support for the engineering, maintenance, and construction of vital evacuation roads and emergency corridors to protect remote communities during severe climate events and natural disasters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon federal entities—including the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), FEMA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—to completely waive match-fund requirements for environmentally vulnerable Tribes and drastically streamline grant delivery pipelines to accelerate community-driven protection projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN strongly urges the United States Congress to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to explicitly define slow-onset, recurring climate processes—including permafrost thaw, chronic coastal erosion, and land subsidence—as eligible disasters for immediate federal relief and proactive pre-disaster mitigation funding; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN asserts this resolution as a formal call to action for state and federal entities to fulfill their legal federal trust responsibilities, delivering the direct financial and technical resources required to protect the critical infrastructure, cultural heritage, and ancestral homelands of Arctic coastal Tribes.

SUBMITTED BY: NATIVE VILLAGE OF POINT HOPE
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ANCSA/TRIBAL

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-32

TITLE: AFFIRMING ALASKA'S TRIBAL NATIONS' RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND SUPPORTING THE TRIBAL AUTHORITY TO PROTECT TRADITIONAL LANDS AND WATERS FROM HARDROCK MINING

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples have stewarded our traditional lands, waters, air, fish, wildlife, and other resources since time immemorial, and our relationships with our homelands are fundamental to our cultures and continued existence as Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS: Our people have protected, respected, and governed our traditional territories according to our traditional laws, clan systems, stewardship practices, and responsibilities to our future generations since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS: Indigenous peoples today account for roughly 6% of the world's population yet protect approximately 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity, demonstrating that Indigenous governance is one of the most effective and proven systems for sustaining ecological health; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Tribal Nations possess inherent sovereignty and the right of self-determination, including the responsibility to protect the health, safety, culture, subsistence resources, and wellbeing of their citizens and future generations; and

WHEREAS: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNRIP) recognizes Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, our rights to maintain and strengthen our distinctive relationships with traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, waters, airspace and resources, and the principle of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in decisions concerning activities that may affect our rights; and

WHEREAS: AFN has repeatedly affirmed the rights of Alaska Native peoples to protect and steward their traditional lands, waters, air, subsistence resources, and way of life (Resolutions 06-01, 07-04, 14-04, 15-5), and has long supported Tribal

responsibility, authority, and self-determination in decisions affecting those resources (Resolutions 14-04, 15-25, 21-04, 25-24); and

WHEREAS: Many Alaskan Tribal Nations and Regional Tribal Organizations have opposed hard-rock acid-generating mining across their traditional territories to protect their ways of life; and

WHEREAS: AFN recognizes and affirms the inherent sovereignty and self-determination of Alaskan Tribal Nations, including its right to grant or withhold consent for industrial mining activities within its traditional territory; and

WHEREAS: AFN affirms that FPIC as an Indigenous rights standard necessary to the meaningful exercise of Tribal self-determination and recognizes that consultation, participation in permitting processes, or engagement with governmental agencies or project proponents does not itself constitute Tribal consent.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention affirm the inherent sovereignty and right of self-determination of Alaska Tribal Nations, including the right to grant or withhold consent for industrial activities that threaten their traditional lands, waters, subsistence resources, cultures, and ways of life; and

BE IT RESOLVED that AFN stands in solidarity with Alaska Native Tribes to exercise self-determination to protect their lands, waters, airspace, Tribal citizens, and way of life; and

BE IT RESOLVED that AFN calls upon mining companies, investors, project proponents, and other private entities to respect the sovereign determination of Tribes to withhold its consent for hardrock acid-generating mining and seek free, prior, and informed consent for any projects within their traditional territory; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN calls upon federal, state, and local governments and agencies to respect the sovereign determination of Tribes and its withholding of consent and to refrain from issuing permits, approvals, authorizations, or other governmental actions that would advance hardrock mining without the clear expression and support from the Tribes and Alaska Native entities within the region the project is taking place.

SUBMITTED BY: CHILKAT INDIAN VILLAGE
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-33

TITLE: SUPPORTING TRIBAL SOVERIGNTY, TRIBAL CITIZENSHIP, GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS IN INTERACTIONS WITH U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized Tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to administer federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Federally recognized Tribes are sovereign governments possessing inherent powers of self-government that predate the formation of the United States, and their governmental status is recognized under the United States Constitution, federal law, treaties, executive actions, and judicial decisions; and

WHEREAS: The federal government maintains a unique trust responsibility to federally recognized Tribes and is obligated to conduct relations with Tribes on a government-to-government basis that respects tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and tribal citizenship; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native people and Tribes have expressed increasing concerns regarding federal immigration enforcement activities and the potential impact of such activities on tribal citizens, tribal governments, tribal organizations, and the exercise of tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS: Reports from across the nation regarding interactions between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and tribal communities have raised concerns about the need for clearer protocols, training, and safeguards to ensure that federal enforcement activities do not interfere with tribal governance, tribal citizenship rights, constitutional protections, due process, or the federal trust responsibility; and

WHEREAS: All individuals, including tribal citizens, lawful permanent residents, and persons engaged in lawful immigration proceedings, are entitled to the protections afforded by the United States Constitution and applicable federal law; and

WHEREAS: Tribal enrollment cards and other forms of tribal identification are government-issued documents that reflect an individual's citizenship in a federally recognized

Tribe and play an important role in verifying identity, citizenship, and governmental affiliation; and

WHEREAS: Strengthening communication, coordination, and mutual respect between federal agencies and Tribal governments promotes public safety, government efficiency, and respect for tribal sovereignty while reducing the risk of unlawful or inappropriate enforcement actions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention call upon the United States Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to recognize and respect the inherent sovereignty, governmental authority, jurisdiction, and citizenship determinations of federally recognized Tribes in all enforcement actions and interactions involving Tribal governments and tribal citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the federal government to review and strengthen ICE policies, procedures, and training to ensure compliance with constitutional protections, federal law, the federal trust responsibility, and principles of government-to-government consultation and engagement with Tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN supports the development of formal guidance, consultation protocols, and intergovernmental communication procedures between Tribal governments and federal agencies to help safeguard tribal sovereignty, protect the rights of tribal citizens, and reduce conflicts arising from enforcement activities within or affecting Tribal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN encourages federal, state, Tribal, and Alaska Native organizations to work collaboratively to educate tribal citizens regarding their legal rights, available resources, and the governmental role of Tribes in matters affecting tribal citizenship and sovereignty; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN supports efforts by federally recognized Tribes throughout Alaska to strengthen and modernize tribal enrollment and identification systems and calls upon federal agencies and other governmental entities to recognize valid tribal identification documents as evidence of tribal citizenship and governmental affiliation to the fullest extent permitted by law.

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

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-34

TITLE: STRENGTHENING NATIVE CAPACITY THROUGH SELF-DETERMINATION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 192 federally recognized Tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and Tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives advocates for Alaska Native peoples, Tribes, corporations, nonprofit organizations, consortia, and Native-serving institutions on matters affecting sovereignty, self-determination, economic opportunity, cultural continuity, and future generations; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples have exercised self-determination by providing institutions that advance the rights, strengthen communities, create economic opportunities, preserve cultures, and prepare future generations for leadership; and

WHEREAS: Federal self-determination policy recognizes the importance of Native participation in employment, training, contracting, and the administration of programs and services intended to benefit Native communities; and

WHEREAS: Native preference is distinct from general diversity, equity, and inclusion policy because it arises from the unique political status of Native peoples and the principle of self-determination; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native people continue to face barriers to employment, training, advancement, and contracting opportunities, making the development of Native workforce and leadership capacity an ongoing part of self-determination; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native institutions have grown and evolved over time, creating a responsibility to examine institutional practices that remain aligned with the self-determination purposes for which they were created; and

WHEREAS: The strength and legitimacy of Alaska Native institutions depends upon the alignment of purpose and practice, and organizations created to represent, serve, or advance Alaska Native peoples are strongest when Alaska Native people are not only beneficiaries of institutional action, but also participants, professionals, leaders, contractors, decision-makers, and carriers of cultural knowledge within those institutions; and

WHEREAS: Organizations that represent or serve Alaska Native peoples must recognize that cultural knowledge, community relationships, communication styles, histories, and protocols are forms of institutional capacity that strengthen trust, service, quality, governance, advocacy, and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS: Lack of prior access to education, training, credentials, capital, contracting opportunities, or institutional experience should not be treated as permanent barrier to Native participation, but addressed through mentorship, apprenticeship, succession planning, professional development, technical assistance, business development, and other capacity building efforts; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native Tribes, corporations, nonprofit organizations, consortia, and Native serving entities have different legal structures, missions, fiduciary responsibilities, and operational realities, and each organization must determine how best to strengthen Native capacity within those responsibilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention reaffirm that Alaska Native institutions are strongest when their policies, practices, and leadership remain aligned with the purposes of sovereignty and self-determination for which they were created; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that organizations are encouraged, where appropriate, to identify practical ways to strengthen Native participation, leadership, cultural connection, and intuitional capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such examination may include consideration of Native hire, training, advancement, cultural fluency, workforce development, succession planning, procurement, contracting, and Native business utilization as practical means of strengthening institutional alignment with self-determination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN is encouraged to convene a temporary workgroup of interested member organizations and Alaska Native leaders to identify promising practices, common barriers, and opportunities to strengthen Native capacity and self-determination, and to provide recommendations for consideration by AFN and its membership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this resolution is intended to direct how an organization governs itself, reduce its responsibilities to its board or shareholders, or require specific hiring or contracting decisions; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates call upon federal and state governments, agencies, funders, and other partners to recognize the self-determination basis of Native preference and support lawful policies and programs that strengthen Native capacity, leadership, cultural continuity, and institutional self-determination.

SUBMITTED BY: SHAAN SEET CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-35

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE REMOVAL OF STATE LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, AND GRANT CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES AND TRIBAL CONSORTIUMS TO WAIVE SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING STATE FUNDING

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Federally recognized Tribes are sovereign governments whose inherent powers of self-government predate the formation of the United States and whose status is recognized under the United States Constitution, federal law, executive actions, and judicial decisions; and

WHEREAS: Tribal sovereign immunity is a fundamental attribute of Tribal sovereignty that protects Tribes from suit unless Congress expressly authorizes such suits or a Tribe voluntarily and unequivocally waives its immunity. Sovereign immunity may also extend to Tribal organizations and Tribal consortiums carrying out governmental functions on behalf of one or more federally recognized Tribes; and

WHEREAS: Throughout Alaska, Tribal governments, Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortiums administer essential services including healthcare, housing, public safety, transportation, education, workforce development, environmental stewardship, and economic development programs that benefit Alaska Native communities and the State as a whole; and

WHEREAS: Requiring Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortiums entitled to sovereign immunity to waive that immunity as a condition of applying for, receiving, or administering state funding forces them to choose between preserving a core attribute of self-governance and accessing resources intended to serve Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS: Many funding sources intended to support Alaska Native communities, including federal pass-through funds, settlement funds, and other public resources administered by the State of Alaska, such as opioid settlement funds and Rural Health Transformation Program funds, are only accessible through state-

administered programs. Requiring waivers of sovereign immunity imposes conditions not required by federal law or the originating funding source and places Tribes and Tribal entities at a substantial disadvantage; and

WHEREAS: Necessary accountability for public funds can be achieved through auditing, reporting, financial oversight, performance standards, and other alternative mechanisms that protect public resources while respecting Tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS: Removing statutory, regulatory, administrative, and contractual requirements that mandate waivers of Tribal sovereign immunity will strengthen Tribal-State relations, promote equitable access to funding, and support the effective delivery of services to Alaska Native communities and all Alaskans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention affirm that Tribal sovereign immunity is a fundamental attribute of Tribal self-government and self-determination and should not be diminished, conditioned, or waived as a prerequisite for participation in state-funded grant programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN advocate to the Governor of Alaska, the Alaska Legislature, and all State of Alaska departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and public corporations to review and amend statutes, regulations, grant requirements, procurement provisions, policies, and administrative practices that require federally recognized Tribes, Tribal organizations, or Tribal consortiums entitled to sovereign immunity under federal law to waive that immunity as a condition of eligibility for state funding, grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, loans, or other forms of financial assistance; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN support legislation and administrative reforms ensuring that federally recognized Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortiums possessing sovereign immunity under applicable federal law are eligible to apply for, receive, and administer state funding opportunities on substantially the same basis as other governmental entities while preserving their sovereign rights and legal protections through accountability measures that do not require waivers of sovereign immunity.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERECE, KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE, ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH BOARD
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-36

TITLE: SUPPORTING STRONGER STATE–TRIBAL RELATIONS THROUGH THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Administrative Order No. 277, signed in 2015, established the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council as a formal forum for communication and collaboration between the Governor and Alaska's federally recognized Tribes, and Administrative Order No. 290, signed in 2017, continued and expanded the Council; and

WHEREAS: From 2015 through 2018, the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council provided an effective venue for Tribal leaders to advise the Governor on issues affecting Tribal citizens and communities, including public safety, emergency response, disaster relief efforts, health care, behavioral health, education, transportation, housing, subsistence, natural resources, economic development, and other matters of statewide importance; and

WHEREAS: After 2018, the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council ceased meeting, and Alaska currently lacks a consistent, statewide forum through which Tribal governments and the Governor engage on matters of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS: In 2022, House Bill 123 was signed into law, formally recognizing all 229 federally recognized Tribes in Alaska within state law, reaffirming the important role of Tribal governments throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Despite this recognition, Alaska currently has no centralized Office within the Governor's Office responsible for coordinating Tribal governmental relations across executive branch agencies, facilitating consistent communication with Tribes, or supporting regular engagement between Tribal governments and the Governor; and

WHEREAS: Establishing a permanent Office of Tribal Relations and reestablishing the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council would strengthen communication, improve

cost-effective coordination among state agencies and Tribal governments, foster collaborative problem-solving, and provide continuity across gubernatorial administrations on matters affecting Tribal citizens and communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention respectfully request that the incoming Governor of Alaska establish an Office of Tribal Relations within the Office of the Governor to serve as the principal point of coordination between the State of Alaska and Alaska's federally recognized Tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Tribal Relations support meaningful government-to-government engagement by coordinating communication across executive branch agencies, supporting agency Tribal liaisons, facilitating collaboration on issues of shared concern, and promoting consistent policies and practices for working with Tribal governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives calls upon the incoming Governor of Alaska to immediately reestablish the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council pursuant to the authority granted under AS 44.19.028 and through an Administrative Order, consistent with the process used to establish other gubernatorial advisory boards, councils, and commissions, for the purpose of ensuring regular and meaningful government-to-government consultation between the State of Alaska and federally recognized Tribes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Alaska State Legislature to enact legislation formally establishing the Governor's Tribal Advisory Council in state law, with defined duties, membership, reporting requirements, and administrative support, in the same manner as other permanent advisory boards and commissions within Alaska state government, thereby ensuring continuity, accountability, and sustained government-to-government relations regardless of changes in administration; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Alaska, the Lieutenant Governor, members of the Alaska State Legislature, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, Alaska's federally recognized Tribes, and appropriate state agencies.

SUBMITTED BY: CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA AND TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-37

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRIBAL ESSENTIAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK MODEL (TESPM)

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The United States has a unique trust responsibility to federally recognized Tribal Nations that extends across numerous relevant federal departments and agencies whose programs support Tribal governments and Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS: Although the federal trust responsibility is shared across the government, it is frequently implemented through separate agency authorities, fragmented funding streams, competitive grants, and burdensome reporting and timelines that force Tribal governments to navigate disjointed systems, even though the challenges facing Alaska Native communities are interconnected and require coordinated, long-term solutions rather than isolated agency responses; and

WHEREAS: Successful federal initiatives, including Tribal Self-Governance, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act (Public Law 102-477), and the Tiwahe Initiative, demonstrate that improving coordination, integrating services, increasing Tribal flexibility, reducing administrative burden, and empowering Tribal leadership produce better outcomes; and

WHEREAS: In response to these interconnected challenges, the development of the Tribal Essential Services Partnership Model (TESPM) as a unifying framework to coordinate implementation of the federal trust responsibility across agencies in support of Tribal-led priorities is imminently needed; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention supports and calls for the development of the Tribal Essential Services Partnership Model (TESPM) as a modern interagency federal-Tribal governance, partnership, and funding framework designed to strengthen Tribal self-determination through coordinated implementation of the federal trust

responsibility and improve the delivery of essential governmental services to Tribal Nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TESPM should prioritize permanent, predictable, and recurring investments in Tribal essential services through coordinated appropriations, multi-year funding commitments where authorized by law, and formula-based funding where appropriate, while participating federal agencies streamline administrative requirements, coordinate reporting, synchronize funding opportunities, improve data sharing, increase flexibility, and reduce unnecessary duplication in support of Tribal governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TESPM should be developed and implemented in coordination with, and without replacing, duplicating, or diminishing, existing and proposed statutory authorities and initiatives, (e.g., the Tribal Self-Governance compact, Public Law 102-477 plans, the Tiwahe Initiative, the proposed Tribal Emergency Response Resources (TERRA) Act, etc.), so that TESPM builds upon and connects these efforts as a coordinated, whole-of-government framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the TESPM shall be guided by Foundational Principles such as (1) Tribal-Led Decision Making; (2) Government-to-Government Partnership that respects Tribal sovereignty; (3) Whole-of-Government Coordination across federal departments and agencies; (4) Permanent and Predictable Investment through stable, recurring, long-term federal funding; (5) Administrative Simplicity that reduces duplication and reporting burdens; (6) Regional Flexibility and Tribal Partnership recognizing regional Tribal organizations when requested by participating Tribes; (7) Measurable Accountability focused on community outcomes and transparency; and (8) Scalable Innovation advancing Alaska Native communities for adaptation throughout the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls for the immediate development of demonstration projects, interagency agreements, legislative proposals, administrative actions, and budget initiatives necessary to evaluate, refine, and implement TESPM; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon partners to act decisively to establish the Tribal Essential Services Partnership Model (TESPM) as a lasting framework for fulfilling the federal trust responsibility in a manner that strengthens Tribal sovereignty, advances self-determination, improves governmental effectiveness, and ensures that future generations of Tribal citizens inherit stronger governments, stronger communities, and a stronger Nation.

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

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-38

TITLE: STRENGTHENING FEDERAL TRIBAL AFFAIRS CAPACITY AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTINUITY TO ADVANCE THE FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The United States maintains a unique political and legal relationship with federally recognized Tribal Nations founded upon the Constitution, treaties, statutes, judicial decisions, Executive Orders, and the federal trust responsibility, the fulfillment of which depends not only upon laws and policies but also upon the institutional capacity of federal agencies to sustain effective government-to-government relationships; and

WHEREAS: Many federal departments and agencies have established Tribal Affairs Offices, Tribal Liaisons, and similar structures that facilitate communication, support consultation, coordinate interagency initiatives, provide technical assistance, and strengthen partnerships with Tribal governments; and

WHEREAS: Tribal Nations invest significant time and resources developing relationships with federal personnel, yet changes in administrations, reorganizations, staff turnover, and vacancies disrupt these relationships, delay projects, erode institutional knowledge, and force Tribal governments to repeatedly rebuild relationships already established; and

WHEREAS: These challenges affect Tribal governments across Alaska and the Nation, and are especially acute in geographically isolated regions like Western Alaska, where limited capacity, travel costs, and logistical barriers make stable, knowledgeable, and responsive federal partnerships particularly important; and

WHEREAS: The federal trust responsibility is strengthened when agencies retain experienced Tribal Affairs professionals, preserve institutional knowledge, provide training on Tribal sovereignty and federal Indian law, and establish systems supporting continuity despite personnel changes; and

WHEREAS: Improving Tribal Affairs capacity benefits both Tribal Nations and federal agencies by increasing effectiveness, coordination, accountability, and long-term

partnerships; and because Tribal Nations differ in their cultures, governmental structures, legal histories, and priorities, effective Tribal Affairs programs should remain flexible, relationship-based, and responsive to the diversity of Indian Country.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention calls upon the Federal Government to develop a Federal Tribal Affairs Capacity and Institutional Continuity Framework as a best-practices model to strengthen implementation of the federal trust responsibility through improved organizational capacity, leadership continuity, workforce development, institutional knowledge, and long-term government-to-government partnerships across the Federal Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN directs that the Framework incorporate the following guiding principles: (**1**) Permanent Organizational Capacity-sufficient Tribal Affairs staffing, resources, and leadership support; Institutional Continuity-preservation of institutional knowledge through documentation, transition planning, and knowledge management; (**2**) Workforce Development-recruiting, retaining, mentoring, and developing personnel with expertise in Tribal sovereignty, federal Indian law, government-to-government relations, and Indigenous Knowledge; (**3**) Leadership Commitment-support for Tribal Affairs programs as essential governmental functions; (**4**) Relationship Stewardship-treating government-to-government relationships as long-term institutional partnerships, not relationships dependent on individual employees or administrations; (5) Interagency Collaboration-coordination across agencies to reduce fragmentation and share best practices; (**6**) Tribal Responsiveness-timely responses, consistent points of contact, and dependable engagement; (**7**) Organizational Learning-regular evaluation, and sharing of successful practices; and (**8**) Shared Accountability-measuring success by the quality of relationships, responsiveness, continuity, and measurable improvements in service to Tribal communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges federal agencies to invest in professional development, leadership succession planning, Tribal Affairs career pathways, and systems that preserve institutional knowledge and promote long-term partnership with Tribal Nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges federal agencies to invest in professional pathways and knowledge-preservation systems that sustain continuity, strengthen government-to-government relationships, and endure beyond changes in administration or leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, Congress, and the relevant federal departments and agencies with Tribal consultation responsibilities.

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

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-39

TITLE: SUPPORTING A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK TO STRENGTHEN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The United States maintains a unique political and legal relationship with federally recognized Tribal Nations founded upon the Constitution, treaties, statutes, judicial decisions, and the federal trust responsibility; and

WHEREAS: Meaningful government-to-government engagement is a principal means by which the United States fulfills its trust responsibility and honors Tribal sovereignty in developing federal policies, regulations, funding decisions, and actions affecting Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS: Effective engagement requires more than procedural consultation and reflects an ongoing relationship built upon mutual respect, transparency, early collaboration, accountability, and measurable outcomes; and

WHEREAS: Meaningful Tribal engagement is particularly important in areas of Extreme Remote America, where federal decisions concerning essential services often disproportionately impact Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS: Tribal governments frequently experience consultation that occurs late in policy development, allows insufficient time, lacks adequate technical information, involves inconsistent federal participation, or fails to explain how Tribal input influenced final decisions; and

WHEREAS: Meaningful engagement is strengthened when Tribal governments receive adequate notice, and, because current federal standards prescribe no mandated minimum timeline, a recommended minimum notice period of 90 days, together with sufficient information, opportunities for technical discussion, and clear explanations of agency decisions, would establish a consistent baseline.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention calls for the development and implementation of a Federal Government-to-

Government Engagement and Accountability Framework establishing best practices that strengthen implementation of the federal trust responsibility through meaningful, consistent, transparent, and accountable engagement between Tribal Nations and the United States Government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN calls for the Framework to be built upon the following guiding principles: (**1**) Government-to-Government Respect-federal agencies should recognize Tribal Nations as sovereign governments and engage Tribal leaders accordingly; (**2**) Early Engagement-Tribal governments should be engaged at the earliest practicable stages of policy development; (**3**) Meaningful Participation-consultation should provide sufficient information, technical assistance, and opportunities for dialogue to evaluate proposals affecting Tribal interests; (**4**) Adequate Time-federal agencies should adopt reasonable timelines, with a recommended minimum of 90 days, that recognize Tribal governmental processes; (**5**) Transparency-federal agencies should clearly identify decisions under consideration, available alternatives, legal authorities, and anticipated impacts; (**6**) Accountability-federal agencies should explain how Tribal recommendations were considered and incorporated into final decisions, or why they were not adopted; (**7**) Whole-of-Government Coordination-agencies should coordinate engagement to reduce duplication and administrative burden; (**8**) Relationship Continuity-agencies should maintain consistent Tribal liaisons, institutional knowledge, and documentation of consultation history; and (**9**) Continuous Improvement-agencies should periodically evaluate engagement practices in partnership with Tribal Nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon federal agencies to reduce administrative burdens by coordinating Tribal engagement, improving interagency communication, and recognizing the limited governmental capacity of many Tribal Nations, particularly those in Extreme Remote America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon Congress to enact a statutory federal consultation standard that codifies and strengthens this framework-which currently rests on Executive Orders and agency policies rather than binding statute and has proven inconsistent and unenforceable-and to establish measurable performance indicators evaluating engagement based upon partnership quality, responsiveness, transparency, and improved outcomes rather than the completion of procedural requirements alone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; the Congress of the United States, including the Alaska Congressional Delegation; and all federal departments and agencies with Tribal consultation responsibilities.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-40

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL ESSENTIAL ACCESS PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK (NEAPF) FOR INDIAN COUNTRY IN EXTREME REMOTE AMERICA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, representing 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums, and its mission is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

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

WHEREAS: The federal government has a trust responsibility to Tribal Nations to support the Essential Access and infrastructure necessary for Tribal Nations to exercise self-determination and provide for the health and safety of their citizens; and

WHEREAS: “Extreme Remote America” refers to regions of the United States, such as many American Indian and Alaska Native communities, including Western Alaska, that face persistent geographic isolation and extraordinary transportation, energy, infrastructure, and supply chain challenges; and “Essential Access” means the equitable, reliable, safe, and affordable ability of Tribal Nations to obtain the transportation, energy, infrastructure, communications, housing, utilities, and public services necessary to sustain healthy communities regardless of remoteness; and

WHEREAS: Transportation, infrastructure, energy, communications, housing, water, sanitation, broadband, and resilient supply chains function as one interconnected system, and failure in any component directly impacts public safety, healthcare, education, economic opportunity, subsistence, and overall community resilience; and

WHEREAS: Tribal Nations throughout Extreme Remote America routinely pay substantially higher costs than most American communities for transportation, freight, construction materials, heating fuel, gasoline, electricity, food, and medicine because of geographic isolation, aging infrastructure, climate impacts, and exceptionally high logistics costs, which in turn increase the cost of nearly every federal program and governmental function; and

WHEREAS: Changing environmental conditions increasingly threaten the critical infrastructure that sustains Tribal communities, even as these remote regions contribute substantially to the Nation's seafood supply, domestic energy, critical

minerals, and Arctic security, yet continue to bear some of the highest infrastructure and energy costs in the United States; and

WHEREAS: The United States has an opportunity to modernize the federal trust responsibility by recognizing Essential Access as a foundational governmental responsibility and establishing coordinated federal-Tribal partnerships that reduce structural cost inequities, strengthen resilient infrastructure, and improve equitable access to essential governmental services throughout Extreme Remote America.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AFN calls upon the federal government to establish a National Essential Access Partnership Framework (NEAPF) as a coordinated federal–Tribal strategy that aligns transportation, energy, infrastructure, housing, communications, and resilience investments to improve equitable access to essential governmental services throughout Extreme Remote America, and to review and reform federal laws, regulations, funding formulas, and grant programs to eliminate the structural cost burdens experienced by Tribal Nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NEAPF shall be guided by the following foundational principles: (**1**) Essential Access as a Trust Responsibility and Partnership—affordable, reliable, and equitable Essential Access is fundamental to Tribal sovereignty and the federal trust responsibility, and partners should coordinate investments through enduring partnerships rather than fragmented programs; (**2**) Transportation and Cost Equity—federal policy should ensure equitable access to safe, reliable, and affordable transportation regardless of geography; (**3**) Energy Security and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure—federal investments should strengthen affordable, reliable, and locally appropriate energy systems and anticipate future environmental conditions; (**4**) Coordination and Tribal Leadership—federal departments should coordinate investments to reduce fragmentation, with Tribal Nations serving as full partners in planning, implementing, and evaluating Essential Access investments; and (**5**) National Recognition—the United States should recognize Essential Access throughout Extreme Remote America as a national priority that strengthens Tribal self-determination, supports Arctic security, and fulfills the federal trust responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN calls upon Congress and federal agencies to make sustained, coordinated investment through federal–Tribal partnerships in transportation, energy, broadband, housing, water and wastewater systems, and other essential infrastructure necessary to reduce costs, strengthen public safety, and sustain healthy Tribal communities.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

TRANSPORTATION

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-41

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING SUSTAINED, FULL, AND RELIABLE STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO END RECURRING SERVICE DISRUPTIONS AFFECTING ALASKA NATIVE COASTAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Many Alaska Native coastal communities are accessible only by water or air, with no connecting road system, and the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) has provided essential transportation — medical travel, freight, workforce and school access, and cultural and subsistence travel — to these coastal communities; and

WHEREAS: AMHS serves more than 30 coastal communities statewide across Southeast, South Central, and Southwest Alaska, the vast majority of which have no road connection to the rest of the state, making full and reliable AMHS funding a matter of statewide, not merely regional, concern to AFN's membership; and

WHEREAS: AFN has repeatedly called for full AMHS funding, including Resolutions 17-26 (2017) and 19-47 (2019), both titled “Urging Full Funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System,” and Resolutions 14-24 (2014) and 19-48 (2019) urging a federal Essential Marine Transportation Program; and

WHEREAS: Despite these calls, the State of Alaska has repeatedly cut AMHS funding since 2014: general fund support fell from $117 million in FY2014; Governor Dunleavy’s FY2020 budget proposed a 75% cut to $21.8 million, and the enacted budget cut $43 million (31%), followed by line-item vetoes of $5 million in 2019 and $8.5 million in 2021; and the current $170 million operating budget faces a $78 million shortfall because an expected federal Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program grant has not been released; and

WHEREAS: The 2025-2026 winter AMHS schedule cut ferry service to certain coastal communities for three-and-a-half months, and the proposed winter 2026/27 schedule would eliminate that service entirely for more than five months (October 1, 2026 through March 6, 2027) due to vessel damage, with no interim vessel substitution identified as of this resolution, forcing affected coastal

communities to rely on costly and limited air or charter travel for medical care, school travel, and freight, and threatening local businesses and school activities that depend on reliable winter ferry access; and

WHEREAS: Although AMHS was designated an "Essential Transportation Service" in late 2024, chronic underfunding and aging vessels continue to disrupt service to Alaska Native coastal communities; and

WHEREAS: The Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program has provided critical but uncertain AMHS funding since 2022; the FY2025 grant cycle did not open, the program expires in 2026, and reauthorization may change its Alaska-favorable terms, leaving AMHS operations at risk.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention urge the Alaska State Legislature and Governor to fully and sustainably fund AMHS to maintain year-round service to all currently served communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress, in the 2026 surface transportation reauthorization, to convert the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program (IIJA Sec. 71103) from a discretionary, competitively awarded grant into permanent, formula-based federal funding for AMHS comparable to the Essential Air Service program, and urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to immediately release the grant needed to close the current $78 million shortfall in the AMHS operating budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the State of Alaska to replace the proposed winter 2026/27 schedule eliminating ferry service to coastal communities and provide a substitute vessel, revised route, or other interim solution.

SUBMITTED BY: CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-42

TITLE: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING THE ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE PROGRAM AND OPPOSING PROPOSED FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS THAT WOULD ENDANGER AIR SERVICE TO RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: In 2017, the delegates of the AFN Annual Convention adopted Resolution 17-27, supporting full funding for the Essential Air Service (EAS) program for rural communities in Alaska and the rest of the United States, and that resolution remains the policy of AFN; and

WHEREAS: The EAS program currently subsidizes air service to 65 communities in Alaska, with two additional communities approved for service in 2025, representing more than one-third of all EAS communities nationwide; and

WHEREAS: Of Alaska's EAS communities, only six are connected to the road system, and all but one are more than 100 miles from the nearest hub airport by road, most of which are narrow gravel roads impassable for much of the year; and

WHEREAS: EAS remains the only means of scheduled transportation for the great majority of these communities, providing the sole connection for passenger travel, medical evacuation, cargo, mail, and delivery of groceries and essential goods; and

WHEREAS: On April 3, 2026, the White House released its Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposal, which proposes eliminating $372 million in discretionary funding for the EAS program, reducing total program funding from approximately $688 million to approximately $316 million, and relying on unpredictable mandatory overflight-fee revenue to make up the difference; and

WHEREAS: This follows a nearly identical proposal in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, released May 2, 2025, which sought a 52 percent, $308 million cut to EAS, and which Congress rejected, instead enacting $514 million in EAS funding through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (H.R. 7148, enacted February 3, 2026), a level the House Appropriations Committee stated was necessary to protect

service to 56 communities that the administration's budget request would have eliminated; and

WHEREAS: During the federal government shutdown in October 2025, EAS funding faced an imminent lapse before the U.S. Department of Transportation secured stopgap funding to continue service to Alaska's 65 EAS communities, at a cost of approximately $41 million annually, illustrating the fragility of relying on annual discretionary appropriations to fund a program on which rural Alaskans' safety and survival depend; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's Congressional delegation has recognized that Alaska's EAS communities exemplify the very purpose of the program, given that they have no practical alternative means of transportation; and

WHEREAS: The elimination or substantial reduction of the EAS program would sever rural Alaska communities from access to health care, education, employment, and basic goods, and would impose costs and hardships that many Alaska Native families and communities could not absorb.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention requests reaffirming its support, first expressed in Resolution 17-27 (2017), for fully funding the Essential Air Service program, and opposes the White House Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposal to eliminate $372 million in EAS discretionary funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to reject the proposed cuts and to fund the Essential Air Service program at no less than the level enacted for Fiscal Year 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges Congress to establish a stable, multi-year, non-discretionary funding mechanism for the Essential Air Service program so that rural Alaska communities are not placed at risk of losing air service due to annual appropriations disputes or government shutdowns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to continue to apply the Alaska-specific Essential Air Service eligibility rules recognizing the unique circumstances of Alaska's roadless, remote communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN directs its staff to transmit this resolution to the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, and other relevant federal officials; and

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

SUBMITTED BY: CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-43

TITLE: SUPPORTING EQUITABLE INVESTMENT IN ROADS, TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, AND COMMUNITY ACCESS ACROSS RURAL ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 192 federally recognized Tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and Tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Many of rural Alaska communities are not connected to the statewide road system and rely on air and marine transportation, local roads, seasonal routes, and other transportation systems to move people, construction materials, equipment, food, fuel, and essential goods; and

WHEREAS: Many rural communities lack adequate roads, bridges, ports, docks, barge landings, airports, trails, and other infrastructure necessary to support housing, healthcare, public safety, education, commerce, subsistence activities, and essential community services; and

WHEREAS: Inadequate transportation and community access can prevent rural residents from accessing and developing residential lots, homesites, and other lands while substantially increasing the cost of housing and community development; and

WHEREAS: Rural transportation projects face significant funding barriers because conventional cost-benefit analyses, population thresholds, matching requirements, and funding formulas may not adequately account for small populations, geographic isolation, or Alaska's high mobilization and construction costs; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's strategic Arctic location, increasing marine activity, critical energy and mineral resources, and national security and defense considerations further underscore the need for safe, reliable, and resilient transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: Rural transportation planning and development initiatives that are locally informed and carried out in meaningful partnership with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, local governments, and communities will be more effective, resilient, and responsive to changing conditions, while better protecting Native

lands, cultural resources, subsistence access, traditional use areas, and the environment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention call upon Congress, the State Legislature, and relevant federal and state agencies, including the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Denali Commission, and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to increase and sustain investments in roads and transportation infrastructure serving rural and remote Alaska communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That AFN supports federal and state investment in community access roads and other last-mile infrastructure that enables rural residents to access homesites, community facilities, utilities, and other lands necessary for housing and community development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That AFN urges federal and state transportation programs to lessen the burden on rural Alaskan communities and Tribes by reducing barriers defined within funding criteria, matching requirements, and project evaluation methods by accounting for rural Alaska's geographic isolation, small populations, limited existing infrastructure, and high construction and mobilization costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That AFN supports flexible funding for the planning, construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of rural roads, bridges, ports, docks, barge landings, airports, trails, and other transportation infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That AFN supports federal and state initiatives to identify and finance dual-use transportation infrastructure in a manner that optimizes the use of public funding while supporting regional and national economic resilience and strategic preparedness; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED That transportation projects affecting Alaska Native communities and lands should be developed in meaningful partnership with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, local governments, and communities, with appropriate protections for subsistence activities, cultural resources, traditional use areas, and the environment.

SUBMITTED BY: UKPEAĠVIK IÑUPIAT CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-44

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REINSTATEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF FLIGHT SERVICE STATIONS IN ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: For hundreds of Alaska communities that are not connected by roads, air transportation serves as a critical lifeline, providing year-round access to health care, emergency services, education, employment, commerce, mail, food, fuel, and other essential goods and services; and

WHEREAS: Flight Service Stations provide vital safety and operational support through weather briefings, flight planning assistance, communications services, emergency coordination, and real-time information that enables pilots to operate safely in Alaska's uniquely challenging environment; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's aviation system operates under conditions unlike those found elsewhere in the United States, including rapidly changing weather, vast distances, limited infrastructure, and extended periods of winter darkness; and

WHEREAS: Local Flight Service Station personnel play an important role in maintaining safe flight operations by coordinating with airport maintenance staff, communicating runway and weather conditions, supporting emergency response efforts, and serving as a critical link between pilots, airports, and communities; and

WHEREAS: The closure or reduction of Flight Service Station services diminishes aviation safety, increases operational risk, and reduces access to critical transportation services relied upon by patients, students, businesses, subsistence users, emergency responders, and rural residents throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS: Reductions in Flight Service Station services disproportionately affect rural Alaskans, where aviation is essential for medevac operations, search and rescue missions, public safety activities, and the delivery of governmental, healthcare, and educational services; and

WHEREAS: Federal aviation policies must account for Alaska's unique geographic, climatic, and transportation realities to ensure the safety and well-being of rural communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention call upon the Federal Aviation Administration to fully evaluate aviation services in Alaska based on the unique operational needs of rural communities and to reinstate Flight Service Stations in underserved regions immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention urge the Alaska Congressional Delegation and the State of Alaska to continue to advocate for the restoration and enhancement of Flight Service Stations across Alaska, and to support federal aviation policies that strengthen rural aviation safety, reliability, and access throughout Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION, MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION & KIKIKTAGRUK INUPIAT CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

OTHER

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-45

TITLE: REQUESTING THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS TO COORDINATE SCHEDULING ITS ANNUAL CONVENTION CONCURRENTLY WITH THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES ANNUAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), founded in 1944, is the oldest and largest national organization representing American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, and its mission is to protect and enhance treaty and sovereign rights, preserve Native cultures and ways of life, promote the rightful place of tribal governments within the American system of government, and improve the quality of life of Native communities and peoples; and

WHEREAS: AFN and NCAI serve as essential forums for tribal leaders, delegates, youth, elders, and advocates to develop policy priorities, advance tribal sovereignty, strengthen government-to-government relationships, and ensure that Native voices are heard at the state and national levels; and

WHEREAS: Alaska is home to 229 federally recognized tribes, representing nearly one-half of all federally recognized tribes in the United States, and Alaska Native leaders play a critical role in shaping national tribal policy and advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS: Participation by Alaska Tribal leaders and delegates during the AFN and the NCAI Annual Conventions is vital to ensuring that Alaska Native perspectives, priorities, and experiences are fully represented in statewide and national discussions affecting Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS: When the annual conventions of AFN and NCAI are scheduled during the same week or on overlapping dates, Alaska Tribal leaders, delegates, youth, and advocates are forced to choose between participation in two of the most important Indigenous policy and governance gatherings in the nation; and

WHEREAS: Overlapping convention schedules create significant barriers to meaningful participation, reduce opportunities for Alaska Tribal Nations to engage in national policy development, limit representation in the NCAI General Assembly,

and restrict the ability of Alaska Native leaders to contribute to discussions impacting Tribal Nations across the country; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Tribal Nations face unique geographic and travel challenges, requiring substantial time, expense, and logistical coordination to attend national meetings, making it especially important that major tribal gatherings be scheduled in a manner that maximizes participation and inclusion; and

WHEREAS: Coordination between AFN and NCAI regarding annual convention dates would promote unity among Tribal Nations, strengthen Indigenous advocacy, improve collaboration between Alaska Native and Tribal leaders nationwide, and ensure that Alaska Native voices remain fully engaged in both statewide and national forums.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention respectfully request that NCAI take all reasonable steps to collaborate the scheduling of its Annual Convention and Marketplace during the same dates or week as the AFN Annual Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN encourages NCAI leadership and staff to consult and coordinate with AFN during future convention planning processes to minimize scheduling conflicts and maximize participation by Alaska Tribal Nations and Alaska Native organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN reaffirms its strong support for the mission and work of NCAI and emphasizes that full participation by Alaska Native leaders at both conventions strengthens tribal unity, advances tribal sovereignty, and ensures that the voices of Alaska Native peoples continue to be represented in both statewide and national policymaking; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives requests that the National Congress of American Indians adopt a policy of coordinating future convention dates with AFN and other major intertribal organizations to avoid scheduling conflicts whenever practicable, thereby ensuring that Alaska Native tribes and leaders are afforded a meaningful opportunity to participate fully in both organizations' annual conventions and governance processes.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE AND CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-46

TITLE: RESOLUTION FOR A NEW COMPREHENSIVE DATABASE FOR UNKNOWN ALASKA NATIVE CHILDREN BURIED IN A PUYALLUP CEMETERY

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The inherit right of Elders and Youth is to be heard in their own language, culture and heritage; and

WHEREAS: In 1860, Puyallup Reservation established a one-room school. The US Government mandated the removal of children from their families. Separating Elders and Youth was deemed a successful method to eradicate cultural heritage, language and tradition; and

WHEREAS: During the 1890s, US aimed to assimilate American Indians and Alaska Natives. Consequently, numerous Alaska Native children were removed from their families, torn apart from cultural influences, and relocated to Tacoma; and

WHEREAS: In 1929, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) established a tuberculosis (TB) hospital for children in Tacoma. During the first year over 700 children received boarding school and TB treatment; and

WHEREAS: In 1943, a new Cushman Tuberculosis Hospital was constructed, making it the largest medical center in the country; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native children were sent to Cushman for education and TB treatment. Tragically, some succumbed during the journey, while others died at Cushman, buried in unmarked graves; and

WHEREAS: In 2001, Puyallup Tribe initiated ‘The Cushman Project” One objective was locating Alaska Native families whose loved ones are buried in Cushman Cemetery; and

WHEREAS: To this day, there are unknown Alaskan children buried in Cushman. In a fenced off section of Puyallup cemetery. Many Alaskan children are in unmarked graves.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention requests a special memorial service be held for the children who tragically passed away at Cushman Boarding School and TB hospital; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AFN will support organizations that manage an established comprehensive database of missing Alaska Native children to facilitate identification and reunification of their descendants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Puyallup's Cushman Project be adapted in partnership, fostering traditional healing practices from profound loss endured during the TB era. This endeavor shall encompass the revival of heritage, language, and tradition. Elders' and Youth' inherent right is to thrive, preserve and own their cultural legacy. And to foster a relationship with Puyallup Tribe to adapt the "2001 Puyallup Cushman Project" to Alaska, assisting in the revival of language and culture.

SUBMITTED BY: FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE - THE 2025 ELDERS & YOUTH CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS - Committee suggested no edits to keep voices of Elders & Youth
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-47

Title: TO ESTABLISH CONTINUED FUNDING FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS THROUGH THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: Alaska public media including radio and television serve more than 95% of the state's population, including Native villages in some of the most isolated and remote locations within the U.S., with broadband access unavailable or unaffordable to many; and

WHEREAS: The citizens of Alaska rely on locally owned and operated public media for information about their public safety, education, economy, health, and Alaska Native cultural and language programming; and

WHEREAS: Alaska public media stations and its content creators lost annual State of Alaska funding in August 2019; and annual Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) funding in October 2025; and

WHEREAS: In fiscal year 2025 the 36 Native controlled stations in Alaska and tribal stations in the lower 48 lost essential, annual CPB grants totaling 9.7 million when federal funding was rescinded in July 2025 with the eventual closure of CPB in January 2026, coming to a total loss to Native public media from CPB funding of $13.9 million; and

WHEREAS: CPB provided critical funding for Native operated content creators and shared service provides such as Vision Maker Media (VMM); and Koahnic Broadcast Corporation (KBC); Alaska Public Media; Native Public Media (NPM); and

WHEREAS: NPM serves as a national center for the network of Tribally licensed and operated radio stations. A NPM survey revealed that 45% of these stations could remain on the air for only one year or less without CPB funding, and over half reported limited capacity in fundraising; and are dependent on KBC and NV1 services for their local station programming. The CPB CSG grant criteria

supported Native producers and shared service providers like KBC, Alaska Public Media and Coast Alaska. Most, if not all, of the 36 Native stations and Alaskan stations contract with KBC to access programming by Indigenous producers for local content made available by NPR PRSS donated satellite channel. Total station fees paid to KBC in FY24 was $330,000; and

WHEREAS: VMM received $1.8 million in CPB funding; and KBC received $965,000 in FY24 CPB grants, CPB funding provided just 61 percent of VMM's operating budget, and as a result had to reduce staffing and end support to create and produce public media television contact by and about Native Americans. It is vital network and infrastructure if Native controlled stations are supported by federal funding because of the emergency alert capability and cultural value to the nation; and

WHEREAS: With the elimination of State of Alaska and CPB funding, Alaska faces an urgent funding emergency for vital public radio and television infrastructure, which will severely impact Alaska's public media stations including cutting off the primary source of media communications for many Alaska Native communities; and

WHEREAS: Through AFN Resolution in 2017 "In Support of Alaska Public Service Media," AFN affirmed the vital role public media stations in Alaska and recognized the critical role these stations serve in public safety and emergency alerts while providing content that advances understanding of Alaska's unique history, cultures, and heritages, while providing Indigenous language programming and current events, policy and news; and

WHEREAS: On July 17, 2025, a South Dakota Senator announced the reallocation of $9.4 million in unused federal funds to sustain Tribal and Native controlled radio stations formerly supported by the CPB; and

WHEREAS: In 2026, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) disbursed these one-time funds to support affected Tribally licensed radio and television stations, though still leaving future support uncertain.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual AFN Convention urges Congress to appropriate annual funding total $14.9 million to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to sustain the thirty-six Native radio stations, one Tribally licensed television station, service providers and content providers serving Tribal Nations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AFN urges the Governor of Alaska and the State of Alaska legislature to re-establish state funding for the 27 Alaska public media stations, its content creators and shared service providers.

SUBMITTTED BY: COOK INLET REGION, INC.
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION:

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 26-48

TITLE: VOTE NO ON 2 TO PROTECT ALASKA'S OPEN PRIMARY, RANKED CHOICE VOTING, AND DARK MONEY DISCLOSURE ELECTION SYSTEM

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 192 federally recognized tribes, 152 village corporations, 11 regional corporations and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

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

WHEREAS: The AFN 2024 Convention adopted Resolution 24-18, entitled Vote No on Ballot Measure 2 to Protect Alaska's Open Primary and Ranked Choice Voting Election System; and

WHEREAS: One in five Alaskans is Alaska Native, and six in ten Alaskans are nonpartisan; and

WHEREAS: Most Alaska Natives are frequently asked to vote in local, regional, Tribal, and corporate elections. Navigating ballots and proxies is a way of life; and

WHEREAS: The open primary and ranked choice voting system provides more opportunities for Alaska Natives to run for public office and get elected; and

WHEREAS: Current law allows for more freedom, more choice, more influence, greater participation among Alaskans, and greater transparency in elections by requiring disclosure of political spending and "dark money"; and

WHEREAS: Alaska voters in 2020 voted to create the open primary and ranked choice voting system and adopted stronger transparency laws so Alaskans can know who is attempting to influence elections, and voted to defend it again from repeal in 2024; and

WHEREAS: Protecting transparency and accountability in elections strengthens public trust and helps ensure that Alaska elections are decided by Alaskans, not undisclosed outside interests; and

WHEREAS: Alaskans should be able to choose a person, not a political party, and trust that the process will encourage good public policy, not extreme partisanship or undisclosed political influence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2026 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby express our support and urge Alaskans to

vote No on Ballot Measure 2 to preserve Alaska's open primary, ranked choice voting, and transparent election system.

SUBMITTED BY: SEALASKA CORPORATION
COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS
BOARD ACTION: DO PASS
CONVENTION ACTION: