



FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
2020 ANNUAL ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 20-01

TITLE: REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO MAKE THE HOUSE TRIBAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE A STANDING COMMITTEE

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Natives and indigenous people have inhabited our lands and waters for over 10,000 years and plan to be here another 10,000 years and Alaska Native voices and guidance are often missing from discussions and decisions related to the welfare of Alaska Natives and our lands & waters; and

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska has 229 Federally recognized Tribes whose citizens make up 20% of our state population and who continue to deploy Tribal sovereignty to do what is best for our Tribal citizens and future generations and all Alaskans benefit when we have adequate and accurate representation on issues impacting our communities; and

WHEREAS: The House Tribal Affairs Committee deals directly with Alaska Native issues and as 20% of the population deserves a permanent place in the Alaska State Legislature, whether the issues be Domestic Violence, Land and Water protection, MMIW, economic development and corporate issues, Alaska Native Tribal health, funding that goes to our communities, education, public safety, cultural issues, Census, Child Welfare; and a standing, special, or joint committee which acts between legislative sessions may consider any legislative matter which is consistent with the jurisdiction of the committee; and

WHEREAS: In its first Legislative session, the House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs has shown great progress can be made in advancing strategic partnerships with Tribes to address a myriad of issues.

First Alaskans Institute

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the participants of the 2020 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that the State of Alaska creates an authorized revision of the Uniform Rules in the 2021 State Legislative Session to make the House Tribal Affairs Committee a Standing Committee; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution once passed be transmitted to Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) for consideration and passage, as well as the Speaker of the House, Senate President and the Alaska Legislature.

SUBMITTED BY: SHAWAAN JACKSON-GAMBLE (CH'AAK'TI) FROM THE VILLAGE OF KHEEXH KWAAN (KAKE)

CONFERENCE ACTION: PASSED ON OCT. 14, 2020