



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11-03

TITLE: ACTION FOR PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS BY PREVENTING TOXIC EXPOSURES THROUGH CHEMICALS POLICY REFORM

WHEREAS: In 2000, the Alaska Federation of Natives passed Resolution 00-44 in support of the elimination of persistent pollutants that threaten our health and the health of future generations; and

WHEREAS: In 2002, the Youth and Elders Conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives passed Resolution EY-17 in support of the elimination of persistent pollutants that threaten our health and the health of future generations; and

WHEREAS: Toxic exposures continue to threaten our health due to the outdated and ineffective federal law of 1976—the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that was intended to enable chemicals both before and after they enter commerce; and

WHEREAS: Today there are more than 80,000 chemicals on the market, which have never been fully assessed for toxic impacts on human health and the environment, and TSCA is failing to serve as an effective vehicle for the public, industry, or government to assess the hazards of chemicals in commerce or control those of greatest health concern; and

WHEREAS: Many of these chemicals ultimately found in toys, everyday consumer goods, or industrial products are suspected or known to be hazardous to human biology and ecological systems; and

WHEREAS: Scientific studies, including those by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevent, demonstrate that hundreds of these same chemicals are being found to be accumulating in human tissues, including breast milk and the cord blood of infants, even though these chemicals have never been produced in the Arctic; and

WHEREAS: Scientific evidence shows that environmental contaminants are linked to a wide array of adverse health effects including cancer, diabetes, learning and intellectual disabilities, asthma, reproductive and developmental damage, birth defects and other serious diseases; and

WHEREAS: Research has demonstrated that Alaska Native and Native American populations are at higher health risk from certain substances that are toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulate in the environment, the food web, and in the human body; and

WHEREAS: Studies show that developing children, youth, elders, and those with chronic illnesses are particularly vulnerable to health effects caused by exposure to persistent and toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives is concerned about the elevated impact and greater health risks to Alaska Native and Native American Peoples due to our reliance on traditional, subsistence foods as an integral part of our culture; and,

WHEREAS: The U.S. federal government to date has not acted to reform the failing U.S. chemical regulatory system; and

WHEREAS: Policymakers concerned about Alaska have the unique opportunity to correct long-standing chemicals policy weaknesses and implement a modern, comprehensive approach to chemicals policy that better protects the public from exposures to toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives is a non-profit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska. The AFN Convention is the largest gathering on an annual basis with attendance in the thousands; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that AFN urges the Alaska State Administration to make Alaska a leader among states in innovation and education in the area of safer chemical policy reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Alaska State Legislature support legislation that would phase out persistent bio-accumulative chemicals and/or those linked to birth defects, cancer, genetic harm, endocrine disorders, immune and neurological damage and use safer alternatives when available; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Alaska Senators and Representative to the U.S. Congress take leadership on chemicals policy reform and use the full power of their offices to urge Congress to transform the 35-year old law, Toxic Substances Control Act, by passing the Safe Chemicals Act of 2011.

SUBMITTED BY: AFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED

