

NVN
Native Village of Nuiqsut
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RESOLUTION NO. 13-01 of
The Native Village of Nuiqsut
OPPOSING THE (HB 77 & SB 26) LEGISLATION BILLS

WHEREAS: the Native Village of Nuiqsut (hereinafter) is a federally recognized tribe;
and

WHEREAS: the Nuiqsut Tribal Council is the governing body of the Native Village of Nuiqsut, and

WHEREAS: the Native Village of Nuiqsut and areas include traditional living places, birthplaces and burial grounds and other areas of cultural significance, and

WHEREAS: the Native Village of Nuiqsut is home to a rich and diverse fishery including king salmon, silver salmon, white fish, chum salmon, broad white fish, arctic char, arctic cisco, burbot, humpback whitefish, grayling, bering cisco, as well as other valuable subsistence species, and

WHEREAS: oil and gas exploration and development activities in areas surrounding the Native Village of Nuiqsut permitted by the State of Alaska have been allowed to occur during summer and winter season that is critical importance to the subsistence harvesting of fish and wildlife, berries, roots, plant leaves and a wide range of mammals and birds, and

WHEREAS: Governor Parnell has introduced bills (HB 77 & SB 26) designed to expand government power and strip Alaskans of their right to clean water and healthy fisheries. One proposal is especially damaging-it would deny Alaskans the right to keep water in streams for salmon. Under current law, Alaskans can file for "in stream flow rights", to secure enough water in salmon streams for healthy fisheries. Large corporations, however, want unfettered access to Alaskan waters- regardless whether they support wild salmon. So Governor Parnell is cutting everyday Alaskans from the loop,

WHEREAS: DNR routinely processes water use applications for mining, oil and gas corporations, but it almost never processes the in-stream flow application needed to keep water for fish, and

WHEREAS: Alaska salmon streams are warming, and salmon are becoming more vulnerable to pollution, predation, and disease: that is why it is more important than ever to keep water in streams to ensure healthy fish,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the State of Alaska proposed Road to Umiat for the purpose of oil and gas exploration and development in this area, the Native Village of Nuiqsut, hereby:

1. Strongly objects to the consideration or approval of SB26 and HB 77 in their present form;
2. Any legislation related to state water rights should recognize that Native Villages, local governments, and other Alaskans have a right to healthy salmon, and obligation to protect them and should not strip away the rights of Alaskans to keep water in-stream rights for healthy fish.
3. Any legislation related to state water rights put the human right to water first. When allocation decisions are made in streams, subsistence uses, aquatic habitat and constitutional rights of all Alaskans should take priority over other out of stream uses.

CERTIFICATION:

It is hereby certified that on the 21st day of Feb., 2013, a quorum of the Native Village of Nuiqsut Tribal Council was formed, and did pass and adopt the preceding resolution by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

Margaret Pauline
Tribal Council President

Hazel Kurukone
Tribal Council Secretary

2/21/13
Date

2-21-13
Date