

# WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

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## ***Resolution - 040213 - 1***

A resolution of Wrangell Cooperative Association in opposition to HB77/SB26.

**WHEREAS:** The Wrangell Cooperative Association Council is the federally recognized Tribal government authority for the Wrangell Native Community; and

**WHEREAS:** Customary and Traditional (Subsistence) hunting, fishing, and gathering has defined our way of life since the time of our ancestors and continues to be the cultural, spiritual and economic backbone of our Tribal citizens and Salmon is a cornerstone species that we harvest and highly depend on; and

**WHEREAS:** Maintaining sufficient in-stream water flow is important for the continued propagation of salmon and other fish and wildlife species, and the Alaska Legislature amended the Alaska Water Use Act in 1980 to ensure that individuals could apply for water reservations to protect salmon and wildlife habitats; and

**WHEREAS:** HB77/SB26, the In-stream Water Reservations Bill, is proposed legislation that will remove the ability of Tribes and individuals to apply for water rights needed to protect salmon and wildlife habitat; and

**WHEREAS:** The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) argues that removing "PERSON" from the list of those that can apply for water reservations does not preclude an individual or organization from working with a state or federal agency to have them apply for a water reservation for them; and

**WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska does not have a government-to-government relationship with Tribes and cannot assure us the state agencies could properly represent our interests to apply for water reservations; and

**WHEREAS:** HB77/SB26 also limit's the ability for the public to be notified and to provide comments on certain development projects by categorizing them under the general permitting requirements; and

**WHEREAS:** Wrangell Cooperative Association would like to have the ability to apply for water rights in the future, should the need arise, and to be able to receive notification on development projects and submit comments;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Wrangell Cooperative Association opposes HB77/SB26 and hereby request that the Senate Finance Committee does not support this legislation.

## CERTIFICATION

This resolution was reviewed and approved by the Wrangell Cooperative Association Council with a quorum present at its regular scheduled Council meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2013.



Timothy J. Gillen Sr. - President

Ernie Christian    Yes   X      No       

Wilma Stokes      Yes           No       

Lovey Brock        Yes   X      No       

Lynn Allen          Yes   X      No       

Frank Churchill    Yes   X      No       

Arthur Larson      Yes   X      No       

Ken Hoyt            Yes   X      No       

Tim Gillen          Yes   X      No