

City of Elim

Resolution #13-03

A Resolution of the City of Elim,

WHEREAS, the City of Elim and nearby areas are primary sources of subsistence food for the people of Norton Bay and its neighboring native communities, and

WHEREAS, the City of Elim and nearby areas include traditional living places, birthplaces and burial grounds and other areas of cultural significance, and

WHEREAS, the City of Elim is home to a rich and diverse fishery including King Salmon, Pink Salmon, Chum Salmon, Silver Salmon, and Dolly Varden as well as white fish and other valuable subsistence species, and

WHEREAS, uranium exploration and development activities in areas surrounding the City of Elim permitted by the State of Alaska have been allowed to occur during the summer 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 rights 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,

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Alaska proposed Road to Ambler for the purpose of furthering mining activity in this area, the City of Elim, hereby:

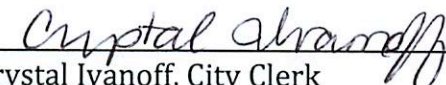
1. Strongly objects to the consideration or approval of SB 26 and HB 77 in their present form;

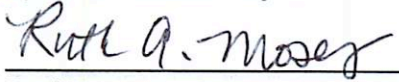
2. Any legislation related to state water rights should recognize that Native Villages, local governments, and other Alaskans have a right to healthy salmon, and an obligation to protect them and should not strip away the rights of Alaskans to keep water in-stream rights for healthy fish.
3. Any legislation related to state water rights should 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

We the undersigned officers and members of the City Council for the City of Elim hereby certify that the council, which is made up of 7 members, of whom (4) constitutes a quorum, were present at the meeting held February 4, 2013, that this Resolution has passed by the affirmative vote of 7 members and that this Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

  
Tyler L Ivanoff, Mayor

  
Crystal Ivanoff, City Clerk

  
Ruth Moses, Secretary/Treasurer