

# Kawerak, Inc.

P.O. Box 948 Nome, AK 99762

Telephone: (907)-443-4380 or (907)-638-6402

Toll Free: 1-877-277-4392

Fax: (907)-443-4484



Eskimo Walrus Commission

"To protect the pacific walrus population."

## Eskimo Walrus Commission Executive Committee

### Resolution 2016-01

#### **A Resolution Opposing the Inclusion of Walrus, Mammoth, and Mastodon Ivory in African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws in the United States**

WHEREAS, the Eskimo Walrus Commission was formed in 1978 by Kawerak, Inc. and represents 19 coastal subsistence walrus hunting communities in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Alaska Native culture today; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in handicrafts for sale in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Alaska Natives is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

WHEREAS, these ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

WHEREAS, these state ivory ban laws may cause residents of those states to face prosecution for buying, owning, or bringing home legally acquired ivory from Alaska; and

WHEREAS, these state ivory ban laws will negatively impact Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eskimo Walrus Commission opposes the inclusion of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in ivory ban laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Eskimo Walrus Commission requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory ban laws in the United States.

EWC Member  
Communities;

Barrow

Brevig Mission

Gambell

King Island

Kivalina

Kotzebue

Kwigillingok

Little Diomed

Manokotak

Mekoryuk

Nome

Point Hope

Point Lay

Savoonga

Shishmaref

Stebbins

Unalakleet

Wainwright

Wales

Charles D.N. Brower

Charles D.N. Brower, Chair

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, the undersigned Vice Chair of the Eskimo Walrus Commission hereby certify that the foregoing resolution 2016-01 was adopted by a majority vote of the Eskimo Walrus Commission Executive Committee. Passed this 16th day of June 2016 through a telephone poll vote.

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SERVING THE  
VILLAGES OF:  
BREVIG MISSION  
COUNCIL  
DIOMEDE  
ELIM  
GAMBELL  
GOLOVIN  
KING ISLAND  
KOYUK  
MARY'S IGLOO  
NOME  
SAVOONGA  
SHAKTOOLIK  
SHISHMAREF  
SOLOMON  
STEBBINS  
ST. MICHAEL  
TELLER  
UNALAKLEET  
WALES  
WHITE MOUNTAIN

**KAWERAK, INC.  
RESOLUTION 2016-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ESKIMO WALRUS COMMISSION'S  
OPPOSITION OF INCLUDING WALRUS, MAMMOTH, AND MASTODON  
IVORY IN AFRICAN ELEPHANT IVORY BAN LAWS IN THE UNITED  
STATES**

**WHEREAS**, Kawerak, Inc. is the regional tribal consortium in the Bering Strait region of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eskimo Walrus Commission was formed in 1978 by Kawerak, Inc. and represents 19 coastal subsistence walrus hunting communities in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Alaska Native culture today; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in handicrafts for sale in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Alaska Natives is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of rural Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, in efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

**WHEREAS**, these ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

**WHEREAS**, these state ivory ban laws may cause residents of those states to face prosecution for buying, owning, or bringing home legally acquired ivory from Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, these state ivory ban laws will negatively impact Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Kawerak, Inc. supports EWC Resolution 2016-01 opposing the inclusion of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in ivory ban laws; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Kawerak, Inc. requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory ban laws in the United States.

  
Frank Katchatag, Board Chairman

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Kawerak, Inc. Board of Directors, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by majority vote of the Board Executive Committee of Kawerak, Inc. during a duly called meeting on June 30th, 2016 with 1 for, ~~0~~ against, and ~~0~~ abstentions.

  
Kirsten Timbers, Kawerak Board Secretary



**SIVUQAQ, INCORPORATED**

**P.O. BOX 101 ~ GAMBELL, ALASKA 99742**

**Telephone: (907) 985-5826**

**Fax: (907) 985-5426**

**Email: [sivuqaq@gci.net](mailto:sivuqaq@gci.net) or [sivuqaqregistrar13@gmail.com](mailto:sivuqaqregistrar13@gmail.com)**

**Registrar Telephone: 985-5003**

**Resolution 03-2016**

A resolution of Sivuqaq, Incorporated, requesting that the serious issue of the mass confusion generated by Executive Order 13648, which ends the African elephant ivory market in America, be included as an agenda item in the White House Tribal Nations Conference.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of Sivuqaq, Inc. are concerned about the health and economic welfare of our residents, and,

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 13648 of July 1, 2013, which ends the African elephant ivory market in America and provides an exemption for items already permitted under existing federal legislation, which includes the protections set forth under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of our hunting rights for walrus and other sea mammals, and, importantly, the use of inedible portions in the production of arts and crafts, and,

**WHEREAS**, states are crafting and passing laws banning elephant ivory and are erroneously including walrus ivory in their description of ivory, even with an inclusion of the federal exemption noted in the Executive Order for items permitted under existing federal law, and,

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Native peoples use of walrus ivory is not explicitly mentioned in the federal or state laws, along with whale, polar bear and sea otter, all of which are included in the state laws, and are mammals we legally continue to hunt and create arts and crafts from, and,

**WHEREAS**, the ensuing confusion is creating a de facto ban of our walrus ivory products, with sales reported as decreased by the businesses our artists and craftspeople depend on, and,

**WHEREAS**, our subsistence based community depends substantially upon the walruses, bowhead whales and seals for our nutritional needs, with the inedible portions used to create our arts and crafts, and,

**WHEREAS**, this income is vital to our residents because our unemployment rates are at approximately 75% and,

**WHEREAS**, prices for food from our stores are astronomically expensive due to the high shipping costs in rural Alaska, and most residents cannot sustain themselves through purchases from these outlets, and,

**WHEREAS**, our pre-capitalist culture of hunting in a non-wasteful manner and only to fulfill our nutritional needs remains one of sharing with our entire community, and,

**WHEREAS**, we have no alternative food sources, and the small income derived from our sales of ivory arts and crafts is necessary for the financing of further hunting, and,

**WHEREAS**, the fuel, boats, ammunition, and other technology necessary for hunting in our modern world is expensive, and,

**WHEREAS**, the emotionally charged and highly graphic photographs of headless, rotting elephant carcasses, directed towards the American and worldwide public by powerful wildlife organizations, as they actively pursue a stated goal to eliminate all ivory markets worldwide, is turning ivory into an unsavory word, and is ultimately going to destroy our market and our only means of self-sufficiency, and,

**WHEREAS**, we can do little to counter the efforts of these wildlife organizations because we are not as well funded, and they are not duly concerned with our dire dilemma, and,

**WHEREAS**, we were not invited to dialogue and address our concerns in the crafting of the Executive Order by the Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as they've stated in a press release on this issue that upon review of their legal obligation to inform and involve tribes in matters affecting them, they determined that this issue did not involve any Native American Tribes, and,

**WHEREAS**, we are invisible in this matter of vital importance to the our food security, and USFWS has not responded to Vera Metcalf, the Eskimo Walrus Commission Director and a tribal member of our island community, and,

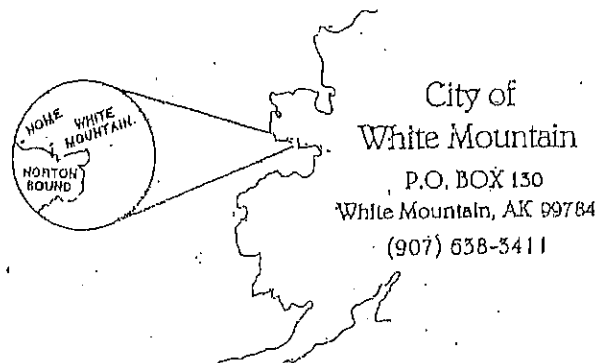
**WHEREAS**, we are not poachers or sports hunters, nor involved in terrorism or organized crime, and a ban on walrus ivory does not work towards the elimination of the poaching of African elephant ivory, which is the explicitly stated goal of the Executive Order, and,

**WHEREAS**, additionally, old walrus ivory is entirely distinguishable from both mammoth ivory and old elephant ivory, and we depend on the sales of that resource, and,

**WHEREAS**, the European Union's ban on seal products destroyed the subsistence based seal product market of the Greenlandic Inuit before the Prime Minister of Denmark resolved the law in their favor, and it has yet to be determined if the Inuit nation of Greenland can fully recover,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that all efforts be set forth to provide us with an opportunity to address this grave matter with President Barack Obama through inclusion of our issue in the agenda for the final White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C, September 26-27, 2016. President Obama created this law, but we are certain he did not mean to do us harm, and instead has demonstrated sincere concerns for our communities. We are heartened by that, for the welfare of our residents and our artists.

BY:   
Secretary, Sivuqaq, Incorporated



**City of White Mountain  
Resolution Number 16-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ESKIMO WALRUS COMMISSION'S  
OPPOSITION OF INCLUDING WALRUS, MAMMOTH, AND MASTADON IVORY IN  
AFRICAN ELEPHANT IVORY BAN LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of White Mountain is a class II municipal government in the Bering Straits region of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of White Mountain was formed in 1969 by community members and is governed by seven appointed City Council members; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native-carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Alaska Native culture today; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in handicrafts for sale in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the sale of walrus, mammoth and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry and artwork by Alaska Natives is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of rural Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, in efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

**WHEREAS**, these ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

**WHEREAS**, these state ivory ban laws may cause residents of those states to face prosecution for buying, owning or bringing home legally acquired ivory from Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, these state ivory ban laws will negatively impact Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the City of White Mountain supports Eskimo Walrus Commission Resolution 2016-01 opposing the inclusion of walrus, mammoth and mastodon ivory in ivory ban laws; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of White Mountain requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory bans laws in the United States.

**ADOPTED** by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of White Mountain, Alaska, this 27th day of September, 2016.

**SIGNED:**



**Daniel Harrelson, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**



**Amy Titus, City Clerk**





NATIVE VILLAGE OF SAVOONGA • P.O. BOX 120, SAVOONGA, AK 99769 • PHONE 984-6414 • FAX 984-6027

### **Joint Resolution 2016-01**

A joint resolution of the Native Village of Savoonga, City of Savoonga, and Kukulget, Incorporated, requesting that the serious issue of the mass confusion generated by Executive Order 13648, which ends the African elephant ivory market in America, be included as an agenda item in the White House Tribal Nations Conference.

**WHEREAS**, the governing bodies of Savoonga are concerned about the health and economic welfare of our residents, and,

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 13648 of July 1, 2013, which ends the African elephant ivory market in America and provides an exemption for items already permitted under existing federal legislation, which includes the protections set forth under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of our hunting rights for walrus and other sea mammals, and, importantly, the use of inedible portions in the production of arts and crafts, and,

**WHEREAS**, states are crafting and passing laws banning elephant ivory and are erroneously including walrus ivory in their description of ivory, even with an inclusion of the federal exemption noted in the Executive Order for items permitted under existing federal law, and,

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Native people use of walrus ivory is not explicitly mentioned in the federal or state laws, along with whale, polar bear and sea otter, all of which are included in the state laws, and are mammals we legally continue to hunt and create arts and crafts from, and,

**WHEREAS**, the ensuing confusion is creating a de facto ban of our walrus ivory products, with sales reported as decreased by the businesses our artists and craftspeople depend on, and,

**WHEREAS**, our subsistence based community depends substantially upon the walruses, bowhead whales and seals for our nutritional needs, with the inedible portions used to create our arts and crafts, and,

**WHEREAS**, this income is vital to our residents because our unemployment rates are at approximately 75% and,

**WHEREAS**, prices for food from our stores are astronomically expensive due to the high shipping costs in rural Alaska, and most residents cannot sustain themselves through purchases from these outlets, and,



**WHEREAS**, additionally, old walrus ivory is entirely distinguishable from both mammoth ivory and old elephant ivory, and we depend on the sales of that resource, and,






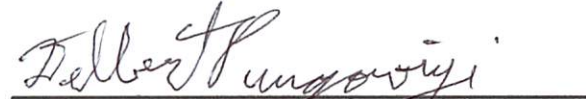
NATIVE VILLAGE OF SAVOONGA • P.O. BOX 120, SAVOONGA, AK 99769 • PHONE 984-6414 • FAX 984-6027

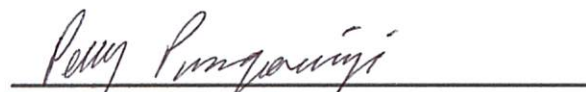
**WHEREAS**, the European Union's ban on seal products destroyed the subsistence based seal product market of the Greenlandic Inuit before the Prime Minister of Denmark resolved the law in their favor, and it has yet to be determined if the Inuit nation of Greenland can fully recover,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that all efforts be set forth to provide us with an opportunity to address this grave matter with President Barack Obama through inclusion of our issue in the agenda for the final White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, D.C, September 26-27, 2016. President Obama created this law, but we are certain he did not mean to do us harm, and instead has demonstrated sincere concerns for our communities. We are heartened by that, for the welfare of our residents and our artists.

**BY:**

  
Myron Kingeekuk, Mayor  
City of Savoonga

  
Delbert Pungowiyi, IRA President  
Native Village of Savoonga

  
Perry Pungowiyi, President  
Kukulget, Incorporated



NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOYUK IRA COUNCIL  
PO BOX 53030 KOYUK, ALASKA 99753  
PHONE: (907) 963-3651 FAX: (907) 963-2353 EMAIL: [tc.kka@kawerak.org](mailto:tc.kka@kawerak.org)

**Resolution # 16-10-13-02**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESKIMO WALRUS COMMISSION'S OPPOSITION OF INCLUDING  
WALRUS, MAMMOTH, AND MASTODON IVORY IN AFRICAN ELEPHANT IVORY BAN LAWS IN THE  
UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, the Native Village of Koyuk is a federally recognized tribal government body for the community of Koyuk, Alaska in the Bering Straits Region of Alaska.

**WHEREAS**, the Eskimo Walrus Commission was formed in 1978 by Kawerak, Inc. and represents 19 coastal subsistence walrus hunting communities in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Alaska Native culture today; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in handicrafts for sale in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Alaska Natives is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of rural Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, in efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

**WHEREAS**, these ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

**WHEREAS**, these state ivory ban laws may cause residents of those states to face prosecution for buying, owning, or bringing home legally acquired ivory from Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, these state ivory ban laws will negatively impact Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Native Village of Koyuk supports EWC Resolution 2016-01 opposing the inclusion of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in ivory ban laws; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Native Village of Koyuk requested that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory ban laws in the United States.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution as passed on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016, with a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absentions, 1 absent.



Lola Hannon, President



Travis Dewey, Treasurer

**Presented By:**  
Councilman Brown

**Action Taken:**  
Yes 6  
No 0  
Abstain 0

**CITY OF NOME, ALASKA**

**RESOLUTION NO. R-16-10-04 (Amended)**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF WALRUS, MAMMOTH, AND MASTODON  
IVORY IN AFRICAN ELEPHANT IVORY BAN LAWS**

**WHEREAS**, various U.S. States have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory products and other states are considering similar laws; and,

**WHEREAS**, these ivory ban laws fail to recognize the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Marine Mammal Protection Act explicitly protects the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in handicrafts for sale; and,

**WHEREAS**, such ivory ban laws will negatively impact the cash-limited economy of the Bering Strait Region, of which the City of Nome serves as the economic and transportation hub; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Nome opposes the inclusion of walrus, mammoth and mastodon ivory in ivory ban laws; and,

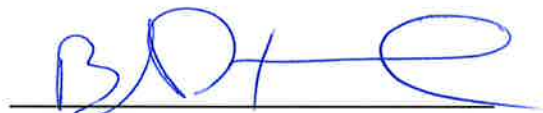
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Nome requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory ban laws.

**APPROVED and SIGNED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.



**RICHARD BENEVILLE,**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**



**BRYANT HAMMOND,**  
City Clerk



**Qayassiq Walrus Commission**  
c/o: Bristol Bay Native Association  
P.O. Box 310  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
Moses Toyukak, Sr., Chairman

**COPY**

**QWC Resolution 2016:01**

**A Resolution Opposing the Inclusion of Walrus, Mammoth, and Mastodon Ivory in African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws in the United States**

WHEREAS, the Qayassiq Walrus Commission (QWC) is an established Native Marine Mammal Commission functioning continuously since 1995, the QWC is a principal advocacy body in Bristol Bay, Alaska regarding marine mammal subsistence use and the preservation of marine mammal habitat areas, including the Pacific walrus and other marine mammal species traditionally harvested by the Bristol Bay tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the Qayassiq Walrus Commission represents nine (9) walrus hunting coastal communities of Aleknagik, Clarks Point, Dillingham, Ekuk, Ekwok, Manokotak, New Stuyahok, Togiak, and Twin Hills in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Alaska Native culture today; and

WHEREAS, the sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Alaska Natives is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

WHEREAS, these ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

WHEREAS, these state ivory ban laws may cause residents of those states to face prosecution for buying, owning, or bringing home legally acquired ivory from Alaska; and

WHEREAS, these state ivory ban laws will negatively impact Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Qayassiq Walrus Commission opposes the inclusion of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in ivory ban laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLED THAT the Qayassiq Walrus Commission requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory ban laws in the United States.

  
Moses Toyukak, Sr, QWC Chairman

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, the undersigned Vice-Chair of the Qayassiq Walrus Commission hereby certify that the foregoing resolution 2016-01 was adopted by a majority vote of the Qayassiq Walrus Commission. Passed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2016.





# **NATIVE VILLAGE OF BARROW IÑUPIAT TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT**

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## **RESOLUTION 2016- 16**

### **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ESKIMO WALRUS COMMISSION RESOLUTION 2016-01 OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF WALRUS, MAMMOTH, AND MASTADON IVORY IN AFRICAN ELEPHANT IVORY BAN LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES**

**WHEREAS**, the Eskimo Walrus Commission was formed in 1978 by Kawerak, Inc. and represents 19 coastal subsistence walrus hunting communities in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Alaska Native culture today; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in handicrafts for sale in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Alaska Natives is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of rural Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, in efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

**WHEREAS**, these ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

**WHEREAS**, these state ivory ban laws may cause residents of those states to face prosecution for buying, owning, or bringing home legally acquired ivory from Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, these state ivory ban laws will negatively impact Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Native Village of Barrow supports EWC Resolution 2016-01 opposing the inclusion of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in ivory ban laws; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Native Village of Barrow requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory ban laws in the United States.

**ATTESTED:**

ADOPTED at a duly convene meeting of the governing body of Native Village of Barrow Tribal Council in which was a quorum on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016, by a vote of:

ADOPTED at a duly convene meeting of the governing body of Native Village of Barrow Tribal Council in which was a quorum on the \_\_\_ day of June, 2016, by a vote of 7 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, AND 0 NOT VOTING.

  
Thomas Olemaun, President

  
Fannie Suvlu, Secretary



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2016 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 16-30

- TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF USE AND SALES OF WALRUS IVORY IN TOOLS, ARTS AND CRAFTS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 151 federally recognized tribes, 150 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional non-profit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska Native people have harvested Pacific walrus for millennia as a source of food, clothing, building material, carving medium for tools, arts, crafts; and
- WHEREAS:** Walrus are a source of pride, traditions, stories and dance; and
- WHEREAS:** The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in handicrafts for sale in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Walrus hunting communities and hunters are represented by the Eskimo Walrus Commission which was formed in 1978 by Kawerak, Inc. and represents 19 coastal subsistence walrus hunting communities in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** The use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Alaska Native culture today; and
- WHEREAS:** The sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Alaska Natives is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of rural Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** In efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and
- WHEREAS:** These ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

WHEREAS: These state ivory ban laws may cause residents of those states to face prosecution for buying, owning, or bringing home legally acquired ivory from Alaska; and

WHEREAS: These state ivory ban laws negatively impact Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy;

WHEREAS: AFN joins Kawerak and Eskimo Walrus Commission's stance to oppose the inclusion of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in domestic ivory ban laws; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2016 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that AFN encourage the "banning of domestic sales of elephant ivory" and requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory, Whale bone, Walrus Skin, Sea Otter, Seal Skin be exempted from current and future domestic ivory ban laws in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES & KAWERAK, INC.

BOARD ACTION: PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASS



Julie Kitka

President



June 10, 2016

Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Via email: [Nathan\\_Bergerbest@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:Nathan_Bergerbest@murkowski.senate.gov)

Re: Ivory Bans

Dear Senator Murkowski:

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives, I am writing to urge you to take action to protect the livelihood of Alaska Native artists who use walrus or fossilized mammoth or mastodon ivory in their art as various states move to ban ivory use, possession, sales and import.

As you know, AFN is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Our membership includes 185 federally recognized Alaska Native tribes, 153 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that compact and contract to run federal and state programs. Formed nearly fifty years ago, AFN continues to be the principle forum and voice of Alaska Natives in dealing with critical issues of public policy and government.

In an effort to stem the poaching that is decimating the African elephant population, President Obama issued an Executive Order in 2013 to sharply curb the domestic commercial trade of African elephant ivory. Following that sentiment, New Jersey, New York, California, Massachusetts and Washington all have laws on the books that, to some extent, ban the sale, use and possession of ivory; more states are considering such laws. While we understand the need to protect endangered species, these laws fail to acknowledge the difference between elephant ivory and the walrus and fossilized ivory legally taken and used by Alaska Native artists in a wide range of mediums.

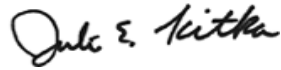
The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects Alaska Native harvest of certain marine mammals, such as walrus, and use of marine mammal products in handicrafts for sale in the United States. The use or sale of mammoth or mastodon ivory is also exempt from most laws regarding ivory sales because these creatures have long been extinct.

We are concerned that the state ivory bans are written so broadly that residents of those states could face prosecution for bringing home from Alaska art that contains legal ivory. More significantly, Alaska Native traditional and contemporary use generates important income from the sale of Alaska Native art and handicrafts and is therefore crucial to many rural families and economically depressed communities, and the practice of creating these works sustains our cultures and traditions. Threat of prosecution and actions that may stifle economic, social and cultural activities as well as decrease Native handicraft and fine art sales will severely impact our already depressed rural economies.

We ask that you intervene to protect the rights and livelihood of Alaska Native artists, either legislatively or by contacting states that are considering these bans.

If you have any questions or require further clarification about the content of this letter, please contact me directly at (907) 274-3611 or [nevakitka@aol.com](mailto:nevakitka@aol.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie E. Kitka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Kitka  
President

**A Resolution of the Alaska State Council on the Arts  
Opposing the Inclusion of Domestic Walrus, Mammoth & Mastodon Ivory In  
African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws in the United States**

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) was created in statute in 1966 by the Alaska State Legislature to act as Alaska's State Arts Agency with a mission to represent, support, and advance the creative endeavors of individuals, organizations, and agencies throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have enacted laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

WHEREAS, these domestic ivory bans fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects the rights of Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in art for sale in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native artists to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that is an actively vital component of Alaska Native culture today throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the passage of state domestic ivory bans negatively impacts Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their art as an important cash income source to support their economic autonomy and therefore their families and communities in a cash-limited economy; and

WHEREAS, ASCA supports Alaska Native artists through a variety of efforts including its Traditional Native Arts Program, Alaska Native Arts Senior Advisory Committee, Alaska Native Leadership Program, Alaska's Living Cultural Treasures and Rural Artists Residencies Programs, and other initiatives; and

WHEREAS, ASCA has supported and advocated for protection of Alaska Native artists and their artwork through such initiatives as the Silver Hand program (Alaska Native arts authentication program) and by acting in an advisory capacity to federal agencies such as the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Arts & Crafts Board, U.S. Migratory Bird Protection, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Alaska State Attorney General's Office and Alaska Department of Natural Resources, with respect to issues impacting Alaska Native artists; and

WHEREAS, ASCA has developed strong partnerships with Alaska Native profit and non-profit organizations and tribal entities through the delivery of professional development services, and supports efforts by Alaska Native organizations such as Kawerak, Inc., the Eskimo Walrus Commission, and the Alaska Federation of Natives and other Alaska Native entities who seek to

protect Alaska Native rights regarding the customary and economic use of walrus ivory from these state bans;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ASCA requests that walrus, mammoth and mastodon ivory be exempted from all current and future domestic ivory ban laws in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ACSA requests Alaska's Congressional Delegation take any and all steps necessary to ensure that Alaska Native artists' creative opportunities and economic rights to use walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory remain protected under already established state and federal law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Brown".

---

Benjamin Brown, Chair

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, the undersigned Vice Chair of the Alaska State Council on the Arts hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Alaska State Council on the Arts. Passed this 16 day of November 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kessler Woodward".

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Kessler Woodward, Vice Chair





# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #PHX-16-049

### **TITLE: A Call for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to Actively Enforce Section 101(b) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**Brian Cladoosby**  
*Swinomish Tribe*

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**  
**Fawn Sharp**  
*Quinalt Indian Nation*

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#### **REGIONAL VICE- PRESIDENTS**

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*Native Village of Tanacross*

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**Leander McDonald**  
*Spirit Lake Nation*

**MIDWEST**  
**Roger Rader**  
*Pokagon Band of Potawatomi*

**NORTHEAST**  
**Lance Gumbs**  
*Shinnecock Indian Nation*

**NORTHWEST**  
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*Tulalip Tribes*

**PACIFIC**  
**Jack Potter, Jr.**  
*Redding Rancheria*

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**  
**Darrin Old Coyote**  
*Crow Nation*

**SOUTHEAST**  
**Larry Townsend**  
*Lumbee Tribe*

**SOUTHERN PLAINS**  
**Liana Onnen**  
*Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation*

**SOUTHWEST**  
**Joe Garcia**  
*Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo*

**WESTERN**  
**Bruce Ignacio**  
*Ute Indian Tribe*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**Jacqueline Pata**  
*Tlingit*

**NCAI HEADQUARTERS**  
1516 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous peoples' have harvested marine mammals for time immemorial for both nutritional and utilitarian needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Native peoples have developed rich cultures and practices around marine mammals and these practices continue today; and

**WHEREAS**, many Rural Alaska Native communities are subsistence based and substantially depend upon marine mammals for economic purposes and nourishment; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Native peoples have always utilized ivory from marine mammals and ivory is now an economic driving force for many native households; and

**WHEREAS**, this dependent relationship between Indigenous peoples and marine mammals is protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Marine Mammal Protection Act was enacted in 1972 prohibiting the take, import, and export of marine mammals by United States citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 101(b) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act exempts coastal Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos from the provisions for the purpose of traditional, non-wasteful practices which includes harvesting marine mammals; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 101(b) recognizes the importance of harvesting marine mammals by the exemption of Alaska Natives for the purposes of creating or selling “authentic native artifacts of arts, crafts, and clothing,” and

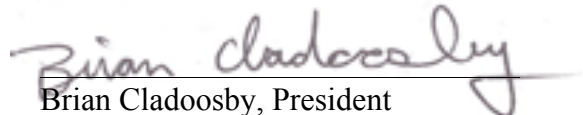
**WHEREAS**, State governments such as, California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and possible others have adopted state laws that are inconsistent with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and prohibit the sale of “authentic native artifacts of arts, crafts, and clothing.”

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians calls upon the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to actively enforce the Alaska Native exemption in Section 101(b) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act so they can continue to practice traditional and customary lifeways and economies utilizing the ivory from marine mammals; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2016 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Phoenix Convention Center, October 9<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> 2016, with a quorum present.

  
Brian Cladoosby, President

**ATTEST:**

  
Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary



**Inuit Circumpolar Council  
Executive Council Resolution 16-01**

**A Resolution of Support for Eskimo Walrus Commission's Opposition of Including  
Walrus, Mammoth, and Mastodon Ivory in African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws in the  
United States**

WHEREAS, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) was founded in 1977 to represent the interests of the Inuit of Greenland, Canada, Russia, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the ICC works to protect and promote Inuit culture and society; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Nuuk Declaration instructs ICC to “Support Inuit hunters in their struggle to adapt to the new Arctic, and Ask ICC to fight unethical and unfair trade restrictions placed on our own products”; and

WHEREAS, 2010 Nuuk Declaration further states to “Instruct ICC to promote the redefinition of hunting activities and use of renewable resources by Inuit as a profession within all international human rights fora”; and

WHEREAS, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, mastodon or other marine mammal ivory by Inuit carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Inuit culture today; and

WHEREAS, the sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Inuit is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of Arctic communities; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

WHEREAS, these ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Inuit artists; and

WHEREAS, these state laws will negatively impact Inuit artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ICC insists that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory bans at regional, national and international levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ICC Executive Council expresses support to the Eskimo Walrus Commission's Resolution 2016-01 *A Resolution Opposing the Inclusion of Walrus, Mammoth, and Mastodon Ivory in African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws in the United States*.

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED AND ADOPTED by the ICC Executive Council in a regular meeting on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.



Okalik Egeesiak, Chair  
Inuit Circumpolar Council