

Representative Nellie Unangiq Jimmie

Alaska State Legislature - House District 38

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Sponsor Statement

HJR 46 (34-LS1715\A)

Last October, Typhoon Halong devastated the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

It triggered the largest airlift in Alaska's history and forced the people of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok to flee their villages.

Kwigillingok has reached a consensus on relocation, and in Kipnuk, 92% of adult tribal members have voted to relocate their village sites to safer ground.

The next challenge for Kipnuk and Kwigillingok is executing relocation plans.

This resolution emphasizes the importance of sovereignty and self-determination in decision-making for the communities of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok as they lead state and federal partners in developing relocation plans.

It urges the Executive Branch and Alaska Congressional Delegation to do everything within their power to support community development of relocation frameworks, dedicate funding to relocation efforts, and coordinate timely disaster relief.

It emphasizes the importance of developing an interim village in community-selected areas while permanent relocation efforts proceed.

And it commits the legislature to continued engagement on all legislative actions needed to fully and swiftly support relocation efforts.

If any questions arise, please contact myself or my staff, Keenan Miller, at 907-465-4942.