

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 46**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 5/14/26

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Recognizing the sovereign decisions of the communities of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok to**  
2 **relocate in the wake of the devastation caused by Typhoon Halong; affirming the right**  
3 **of Alaska Native communities to self-determination; and urging full state and federal**  
4 **support for relocation of those communities.**

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 **WHEREAS**, on October 11, 2025, Typhoon Halong brought hurricane-force winds  
7 and record flooding to several Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta villages and affected over 50 villages  
8 total; and

9 **WHEREAS** Typhoon Halong triggered the largest airlift in the state's history, with  
10 nearly the entire populations of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok evacuated by military aircraft; and

11 **WHEREAS** community members in Kipnuk and Kwigillingok have voted to relocate  
12 their villages to safer ground; and

13 **WHEREAS** the decades-long effort to relocate from Newtok to Mertarvik  
14 demonstrates that a clear institutional framework and sustained funding is needed to undergo  
15 community relocation without prolonging the suffering of displaced people;

1           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature

2                   (1) recognizes and honors the sovereign decisions of the Alaska Native  
3 communities of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok to relocate as an exercise of tribal sovereignty and  
4 community self-determination that the state must support, not direct;

5                   (2) affirms the federal government's trust obligation to respect the rights of  
6 Alaska Native communities to determine their own future, including where to live and when  
7 to move;

8                   (3) urges the Governor to develop a clear, community-centered relocation  
9 framework with a reliable timeline, dedicated state appropriations, and interagency  
10 coordination;

11                   (4) urges the state's congressional delegation to restore and expand federal  
12 funding for community relocation on an emergency basis and to oppose any federal actions  
13 that cancel, redirect, or delay disaster relief for affected communities;

14                   (5) calls on state and federal agencies to help establish an interim village in a  
15 community-selected location for the evacuated residents of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok; and

16                   (6) commits to continued engagement with Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
17 communities on all legislative actions needed to fully and swiftly support relocation efforts.

18           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair of  
19 the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; the Honorable Mike Dunleavy, Governor of  
20 Alaska; Major General Torrence W. Saxe, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and  
21 commissioner of military and veterans' affairs; Bryan Fisher, Director, Department of Military  
22 and Veterans' Affairs, division of homeland security and emergency management; the Native  
23 Village of Kipnuk; the Kwigillingok IRA Council; Thaddeus Tikiun, Jr., Chair, the  
24 Association of Village Council Presidents; and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senator, and  
25 the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in  
26 Congress.