



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 23-17

TITLE: URGING CONGRESS TO RESTORE LANDS CONVEYED UNDER THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT 14(C)(3) PROVISION

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 179 federally recognized tribes, 154 village corporations, 9 regional corporations, and 10 regional nonprofit 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: The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was enacted by the United States Congress in 1971 to resolve the land claims of Alaska Native peoples; and

WHEREAS: Section 14(c)(3) of ANCSA required every Native Village Corporation to convey a portion of the lands it received to the State of Alaska to be held in trust for the eventual creation of a municipal government in the community without recognition of Tribal Councils; and

WHEREAS: There were originally 101 villages covered by the 14 (c) State Municipal Land Trust (MLT) program, and according to the State of Alaska, a total of eight villages have been incorporated into a municipality, the last one in 1995; and

WHEREAS: This leaves 83 communities that are still covered under the MLT program, with approximately 11,500 acres currently held in trust by the State; and

WHEREAS: These lands are now being managed in apparent perpetuity by the State Municipal Land Trust (MLT), an office that is underfunded and overtasked and reluctant to accept lands for certain municipal functions such as community landfills; and

WHEREAS: The 14(c)(3) provision was drafted over 50 years ago and now leads to significant and detrimental impacts on the ability of Alaska Native corporations and communities to engage in economic development activities and utilize their lands to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS: The underfunding and overtasking of the MLT office has created unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and obstacles, hindering the economic self-determination and self-sufficiency of Alaska Native people; and

WHEREAS: Removing the 14(c)(3) provision will empower Alaska Native corporations and communities to make informed decisions about how to best utilize their lands and resources, leading to greater economic prosperity and self-sufficiency.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2023 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request Congress to support the economic empowerment and self-sufficiency of Alaska Native people by supporting efforts to sunset and the ANCSA 14(c)(3) provision and revert lands held in the MLT program to our Alaska Native Village Corporations.

SUBMITTED BY: BAAN O YEEL KON CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS AS AMENDED

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023