

Resolution 2025-02 Opposing the Renaming of Denali to Mt. McKinley

WHEREAS the mountain traditionally known as Denali, meaning "The High One" in the Koyukon Athabaskan language, holds profound cultural, historical, and spiritual significance for Alaska Natives and the people of Interior Alaska; and

WHEREAS Denali is the tallest mountain in North America and a world-renowned symbol of Alaska's natural grandeur, attracting visitors from across the globe and serving as a cornerstone of Alaska's tourism industry; and

WHEREAS the name Denali was officially recognized by the United States Department of the Interior in 2015, affirming the state's long-standing efforts to honor the indigenous heritage and cultural identity of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the name Mt. McKinley, conferred in 1896 without input from Alaskans, commemorates President William McKinley, who had no significant connection to Alaska; and

WHEREAS reinstating the name Mt. McKinley would disregard the voices of Alaska's indigenous communities, undermine state and federal recognition of indigenous heritage, and erode the cultural and historical integrity of the mountain's identity; and

WHEREAS Denali, as its rightful name, has gained widespread recognition and respect across Alaska, the United States, and the international community; and

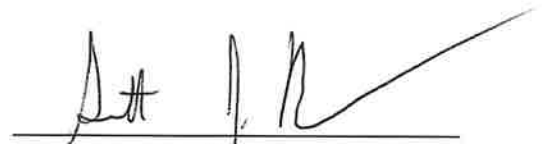
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Explore Fairbanks supports continued recognition of Denali as a name that honors the rich cultural traditions of Alaska Natives and the state's unique identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be communicated to Alaska's congressional delegation and Governor Mike Dunleavy as a demonstration of unified support for preserving the name Denali.

Adopted this 29th day of January, 2025, by Explore Fairbanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Toelle", written over a horizontal line.

Doug Toelle, Chair, EF Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott McCrea", written over a horizontal line.

Scott McCrea, President & CEO