Organized Village of Kake
P.O. Box 316
Kake, Alaska 99830-0316
Telephone 907-785-6471
Fax 907-785-4902 / www.kakefirstnation.org
(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)

Resolution No. 2018-08 – Organized Village of Kake Opposition of State of Alaska Senate Joint Resolution No. 13

WHEREAS, the Organized Village of Kake (hereinafter OVK) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under federal law and is empowered under its *Constitution & By-Laws* to execute agreements and contracts with the United States to benefit its members; and,

WHEREAS, OVK is organized pursuant to the authority of the Federal Indian Reorganization Acts (hereinafter IRA) of 1934 & 1936 with the IRA Council as the duly elected governing body formed under its *Constitution & By-Laws*; and,

WHEREAS, OVK recognizes the importance of addressing our traditionally gathered resources and practices; and economic development through the utilization of local, private, federal and state programs; technical assistance; and to increase traditional gathering resources & practices; economic development, and

WHEREAS OVK strongly opposes the State of Alaska's *Senate Joint Resolution No. 13* regarding potential co-management efforts to "co-manage, take and study marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act", and

WHEREAS, two efforts were made in the 1960's by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to trans relocate sea otter from Amchitka Island with no form of management or control or consultation, and

WHEREAS, OVK agrees that sea otter population in Southeast Alaska has grown exponentially between 1969-2014 to a point where negative impacts are occurring on natural resources and the marine environment, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 200,000 sea otter inhabited an area from Northern California to Japan during the 18th century when Alaska Natives rightfully practiced indigenous commerce and managed natural resources effectively, and

WHEREAS, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 continues the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest sea otter to sell or trade amongst qualified Alaska Natives with a blood quantum equal or greater than 25%, and

WHEREAS, Senator Bert Stedman, the State of Alaska, or the Alaska Department of Fish & Game did not made an effort to communicate, consult or coordinate efforts regarding sea otter population or management with federally recognized Tribes in Southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, fish & game resources managed by the State of Alaska, such as (but not limited to) salmon, herring, shellfish, Sitka black tail deer have not proven to be sustainable and cannot be used as a model for successful management, and

WHEREAS, OVK opposes working with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to establish a plan for sea otter management that will maintain a balance between sustainable shellfish harvesting and our region's sea otter population, and

WHEREAS, OVK also opposes the requirement to purchase a hunting license from the State of Alaska to harvest sea otter because no license is currently required to harvest sea otter by qualified Alaska Natives, and

WHEREAS, OVK opposes the Alaska State Legislature's efforts to receive a "scientific permit" that will authorize the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to:

1. Take as many marine mammals as is necessary to protect other subsistence fisheries resources; or
2. Grant the Alaska Department of Fish & Game the authority to administer a management plan, including the plan's amendment or modification, as circumstances, including changes in the sustainability of the marine mammal or other fisheries resources, and
3. Permit the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to delegate all or parts of the agency's management authority to an Alaska Native Organization, and

WHEREAS, OVK will create or work with Tribally Authorized Co-Management Bodies under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and its amendments- as well as U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to address sea otter in Southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the Tribally Authorized Co-Management Bodies can create a Section 119 Memorandum of Agreement between U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (under the Department of Interior) and National Marine Fisheries Service (under the Department of Commerce) to begin unified efforts regarding sea otter population counts, ecosystem assessments and bio-sampling, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, OVK strongly opposes the Alaska State Legislature's efforts to have federal agencies to work with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to establish a plan for sea otter management, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, OVK opposes Alaska State Legislature's efforts to create a management plan and considerations on efforts to expand and enhance small businesses and provide economic opportunities for Southeast Alaska's residents, and be it

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, OVK also opposes Alaska State Legislature's efforts to "expand the scope of allowable uses for harvest of marine mammals; require Alaska Natives to purchase a hunting license to hunt sea otter, or allow Alaska Department of Fish & Game to enter a cooperative agreement to co-manage subsistence uses of marine mammals, especially the authority to permit the sale and foreign export of sea otter pelts, and be it

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that no scientific permit be issued to the State of Alaska for the purposes of sea otter population control, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, OVK opposes Alaska State Legislature's efforts to receive a scientific permit authorizing the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to take as many marine mammals as is necessary to protect resources; or be granted to administer a management plan, including any amendments or modifications; or permit Alaska Department of Fish & Game to delegate all or part of the agency's management authority.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly adopted at an IRA Council meeting held this 24th day of February, 2018 by a quorum of 5 (includes president as non-voting chairperson except in case of tie vote) with 4 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstaining.

Joel M Jackson pres.
Joel Jackson, President

Attested by