

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS

Introduced: 2/13/26

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

- 1 **Supporting the ability of Alaska Native corporations to participate in the United States**
2 **Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress enacted 43 U.S.C. 1601 (Alaska Native
5 Claims Settlement Act) in 1971 to resolve aboriginal land claims in the state and to promote
6 economic self-sufficiency for Alaska Natives through the creation of Alaska Native
7 corporations; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska Native corporations were established as for-profit entities to
9 create economic opportunity, provide employment, and improve the health, education, and
10 welfare of Alaska Native shareholders and future generations; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States Small Business Administration's 8(a) Business
12 Development Program is a federal program designed to assist socially and economically
13 disadvantaged businesses in accessing federal contracting opportunities; and

14 **WHEREAS** Alaska Native corporations are uniquely eligible to participate in the 8(a)
15 Business Development Program under federal law in recognition of the federal government's
16 trust responsibility to Alaska Natives and the unique circumstances of the state; and

1 **WHEREAS** the participation of Alaska Native corporations in the 8(a) Business
2 Development Program has created thousands of jobs for residents of the state, including
3 veterans and residents of rural and underserved communities, and has helped build a skilled
4 workforce across the state; and

5 **WHEREAS** revenue generated through the participation of Alaska Native
6 corporations in the 8(a) Business Development Program is reinvested in the state through
7 shareholder dividends, job training, scholarships, cultural preservation, health care,
8 infrastructure, and community development; and

9 **WHEREAS** Alaska Native corporations participating in the 8(a) Business
10 Development Program operate in a wide range of industries, including construction,
11 engineering, energy, defense, logistics, information technology, health services, and
12 professional services; and

13 **WHEREAS** the participation of Alaska Native corporations in the 8(a) Business
14 Development Program has strengthened the state's economy by increasing competition,
15 fostering entrepreneurship, and ensuring that federal money spent in the state provides lasting
16 benefits to residents of the state; and

17 **WHEREAS** the 8(a) Business Development Program has proven to be an effective
18 and efficient tool for federal agencies to meet mission needs while advancing the federal
19 policy goals of economic inclusion and self-determination for Alaska Natives; and

20 **WHEREAS** periodic proposals to restrict, eliminate, or undermine the participation of
21 Alaska Native corporations in the 8(a) Business Development Program threaten jobs in the
22 state, rural economies, and the ability of Alaska Native corporations to fulfill obligations to
23 shareholders;

24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the continued
25 authorization for Alaska Native corporations to participate in and fully implement the 8(a)
26 Business Development Program; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the
28 participation of Alaska Native corporations in the 8(a) Business Development Program as a
29 critical component of the state's economy and a successful example of federal policy that
30 promotes self-sufficiency, opportunity, and long-term economic development; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the

1 United States, the United States Congress, and the United States Small Business
2 Administration to preserve and defend the ability of Alaska Native corporations to participate
3 in the 8(a) Business Development Program and to oppose efforts that would weaken or
4 eliminate its unique provisions; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature affirms its support for
6 Alaska Native self-determination and the federal trust responsibility embodied in 43 U.S.C.
7 1601 (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) and related federal programs.

8 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
9 of the United States; the Honorable Marco Rubio, United States Secretary of State; the
10 Honorable Howard Lutnick, United States Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Kelly
11 Loeffler, Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration; Benjamin Mallott,
12 President, Alaska Federation of Natives; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
13 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S.
14 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.