

**CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26(RES)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 3/10/26**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARCTIC AFFAIRS**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Supporting the ability of Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally**  
2 **recognized tribes in the state to participate in the United States Small Business**  
3 **Administration's 8(a) Business Development Program.**

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

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

9 **WHEREAS** there are 229 federally recognized tribes in the state, each with a  
10 government-to-government relationship with the United States, and the trust responsibility of  
11 the United States extends to Alaska Native tribes and Alaska Native corporations; and

12 **WHEREAS** Alaska Native corporations were established to create economic  
13 opportunity, provide employment, and improve the health, education, and welfare of Alaska  
14 Native shareholders and future generations; and

15 **WHEREAS** entities owned by federally recognized tribes in the state serve vital roles

1 in promoting the economic development, self-governance, health, education, and welfare of  
2 Alaska Native communities; and

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

6 **WHEREAS** Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally recognized  
7 tribes in the state are expressly eligible to participate in the 8(a) Business Development  
8 Program under federal law in recognition of the federal government's trust responsibility to  
9 Alaska Natives and the unique circumstances of how the plenary powers of the United States  
10 Congress were exercised over the organizational structure of Alaska Natives; and

11 **WHEREAS** the participation of Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by  
12 federally recognized tribes in the state in the 8(a) Business Development Program has created  
13 thousands of jobs for residents of the state, including veterans and residents of rural and  
14 underserved communities, and has helped build a skilled workforce across the state; and

15 **WHEREAS** revenue generated through the participation of Alaska Native  
16 corporations and entities owned by federally recognized tribes in the state in the 8(a) Business  
17 Development Program is reinvested in the state through shareholder dividends, job training,  
18 scholarships, cultural preservation, health care, infrastructure, and community development;  
19 and

20 **WHEREAS** Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally recognized  
21 tribes in the state participating in the 8(a) Business Development Program operate in a wide  
22 range of industries, including construction, engineering, energy, defense, logistics,  
23 information technology, health services, and professional services; and

24 **WHEREAS** the participation of Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by  
25 federally recognized tribes in the state in the 8(a) Business Development Program has  
26 strengthened the state's economy by increasing competition, fostering entrepreneurship, and  
27 ensuring that federal money spent in the state provides lasting benefits to residents of the  
28 state; and

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

1 Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally recognized tribes in the state; and

2 **WHEREAS** periodic proposals to restrict, eliminate, or undermine the participation of  
3 Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally recognized tribes in the state in  
4 the 8(a) Business Development Program threaten jobs in the state, rural economies, and the  
5 ability of Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally recognized tribes in the  
6 state to fulfill obligations to shareholders and tribal members;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the continued  
8 authorization for Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally recognized tribes  
9 in the state to participate in and fully implement the 8(a) Business Development Program; and  
10 be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the  
12 participation of Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally recognized tribes  
13 in the state in the 8(a) Business Development Program as a critical component of the state's  
14 economy and a successful example of federal policy that promotes self-sufficiency,  
15 opportunity, and long-term economic development; and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the  
17 United States, the United States Congress, and the United States Small Business  
18 Administration to preserve, defend, and fully utilize the ability of Alaska Native corporations  
19 and entities owned by federally recognized tribes in the state to participate in the 8(a)  
20 Business Development Program and to oppose efforts that would weaken or eliminate its  
21 unique provisions applicable to Alaska Native corporations and entities owned by federally  
22 recognized tribes in the state; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature affirms its support for  
24 Alaska Native self-determination and the federal trust responsibility embodied in 43 U.S.C.  
25 1601 (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) and related federal programs, including those  
26 supporting the sovereign authority of federally recognized tribes in the state.

27 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President  
28 of the United States; the Honorable Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary of Defense; the  
29 Honorable Brandon Beach, Treasurer of the United States; the Honorable Kelly Loeffler,  
30 Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration; Nicole Borromeo, President,  
31 ANCSA Regional Association; Benjamin Mallott, President, Alaska Federation of Natives;

1 Curtis McQueen, Executive Director, Alaska Native Village Corporation Association; and the  
2 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the  
3 Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in  
4 Congress.