

## Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camp



## **RESOLUTION No. 14-08**

Title: Support all Southeast Alaska Native Communities and their Descendants from the failures of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to include Land Selection Rights and Compensation.

**WHEREAS,** in 1971 the United States Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to their traditional homelands by authorizing the establishment of Alaska Native Corporations to receive and manage lands and funds awarded in settlement of the claims of Alaska Natives; and

**WHEREAS,** the purpose of ANCSA was to settle the land claims of the Alaska Natives and to provide them with the means to pursue economic development for the benefit of Alaska's Native people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell and possibly others were not listed as communities eligible to form Native village or urban corporations under ANCSA, despite the fact that these communities comprised greater than 20% of the Shareholders of Sealaska; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of these individuals have passed since the passage of ANCSA without receiving their inherent land right; and

**WHEREAS,** a Congressional report commissioned in 1993 to examine the reasons five of these communities were denied ANCSA eligibility indicates that the communities do not differ significantly from the Southeast communities that were allowed ANCSA eligibility; and

**WHEREAS,** these communities and their descendants are seeking an act of Congress or the courts to seek relief in the form of land selection rights and appropriate compensation:

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood assembled in Petersburg, Alaska on October 8 through 11, 2014, whose theme was Haa Aani, Haa Shuka – Our Land, Our Future urge Congressional action to bring relief to these communities and their descendants and to take all

necessary action to prevent damage to or further takings of Native lands available for settlement purposes (e.g. 17 acres at boat harbor by City of Tenakee Springs, gravesites, home sites and allotments in the communities of Haines, Douglas, etc.).

William E. Martin
ANB Grand President

Freda M. Westman ANS Grand President

ATTEST: I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB/ANS Grand Camp in convention at Petersburg, Alaska, during the week of October 8 through October 11, 2014.

Colette Buchanan

ANB Grand Secretary