



**Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native
Sisterhood
Grand Camp**



RESOLUTION No. 14-20

Title: Requesting State Regulation Amendments for covering Pesticide Use on Southeast Alaska's State Land in order to allow for Public Comment and Consultation with Communities prior to spraying and to Ensure adequate Protection for Southeast Fish and Waterways

WHEREAS, the use of pesticides by the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) along roads and highways is of great concern to the ANB and ANS; and

WHEREAS, public and private lands and waterways adjacent to roadways provide habitat for fish, wildlife, berries and other natural resources that Alaskans rely on for food, economic security and cultural sustenance; and

WHEREAS, the abundance of surface water and rain in Southeast Alaska leads members to conclude that pesticides applied in Southeast will inevitably find their way into fish-bearing streams, lakes and watersheds; and

WHEREAS, members rely on fish harvested from Southeast Alaska's waterways and demand that such fish be free of contaminants; and

WHEREAS, the reputation of Alaska's fish as uncontaminated is key to the ability of Southeast commercial fisherman to successfully market their catch, and pesticide runoff threatens the reputation of Alaska fish as pristine and healthy; and

WHEREAS, changes to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation regulations on March 7, 2013 eliminated the opportunity for public comment and for public hearings on plans to apply pesticides to state land, including right-of-ways; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of public comment opportunities reduced the right of members to have a voice in their government; and

WHEREAS, the ADOT planned to apply herbicides along 17 miles of Thorne Bay Road in September 2014, but delayed the spraying after public outcry; and

WHEREAS, such a backlash may have been avoided had the ADOT consulted with and considered the concerns of local residents and communities instead of unilaterally announcing its intention to apply herbicides; and

WHEREAS, members believe that pesticide should only be used when mechanical and non-chemical methods have been exhausted, and even then only after public consultation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood in Grand Camp assembled in Petersburg, Alaska between October 8 through October 11, 2014 urges the State of Alaska to amend its regulations covering the use of pesticides on state land in order to allow for public comment and consultation with communities prior to spraying and to ensure adequate protection for Southeast fish and waterways; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood in Grand Camp support the passage of a bill substantially similar to HB 201 (28th Legislature) in the upcoming legislative session in order to assure such amendment of state pesticide regulations.



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