



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



RESOLUTION NO. # 13-34

Title: A Resolution in Support of the Landless Southeast Alaska Native Communities Seeking Legislation to allow them to form Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations and Receive ANCSA Benefits which 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, many of the Alaska Native Corporations have become successful and powerful economic engines within their communities, regions and throughout the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, ANCSA was passed to provide for a fair and just settlement of all claims by Natives and Native groups of Alaska, and was to be accomplished rapidly, with certainty, in conformity with the real economic and social needs of Natives; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell (known as "Landless" communities in Southeast Alaska) 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, the reason for this exclusion is not explained in the statutory or report language of ANCSA and an appeal of this exclusion was not authorized in ANCSA; and

WHEREAS, a Congressional report commissioned in 1993 to examine the reasons why the five 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 five Landless communities have sought full eligibility for ANCSA benefits for four decades; and

WHEREAS, the Landless communities, through legislation introduced into the United States Senate and House of Representatives, are seeking an act of Congress to allow them to form ANCSA Native urban corporations and to receive ANCSA benefits, which include land selection rights and appropriate compensation;

RESOLVED, That the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood in Grand Camp assembled in October 2013, agree that the Landless communities should be eligible to form Alaska Native corporations to receive land selections rights and compensation under ANCSA; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED , that all efforts to enact legislation intended to authorize the formation of Alaska Native corporations for these five Landless communities are fully supported and request the ANB & ANS Grand Officers work diligently for passage of such act just as the original land claims settlement.

ANB Grand President

ANS Grand President

ATTEST: I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB/ANS Grand Camp in convention at Yakutat, Alaska, during the week of October 8 through 11, 2013.

ANB Grand Secretary