



ANB/ANS Grand Camp
Anchorage, AK October 2019



Resolution 19-30

Title: SUPPORT FIVE LANDLESS COMMUNITIES TO RECEIVE ANCSA LANDLESS BENEFITS

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

WHEREAS, Many of the Alaska Native corporations have become successful and powerful economic, social and cultural engines within their communities, regions and throughout the State of Alaska; 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 the exclusion, to the Secretary of Interior, was not authorized for Southeast Alaska communities 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, The five Landless communities and shareholders have been denied the benefit of land ownership and the opportunities that this land ownership could provide economically, socially and culturally; and

WHEREAS, These five Landless communities have sought full eligibility for ANCSA land and benefits for four decades and will continue to fight to correct this historic inequity; and



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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 including land selection rights and appropriate compensation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Delegates of the 2019 annual convention of the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) and Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) call upon the United States Congress, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Agriculture to recognize these five Landless communities as eligible to form Alaska Native corporations and to receive land selection rights and compensation under ANCSA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The ANB and ANS will add its policy support and efforts to the struggle to enact legislation intended to authorize the formation of the Alaska Native corporations for these five Landless communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, This resolution shall be the policy of the ANB and ANS until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

/s/ Joe Williams, Grand President
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Paulette Moreno, Grand President
Alaska Native Sisterhood

/s/ James A. Llanos Jr, Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Carol Duis, Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Sisterhood