

CITY OF COFFMAN COVE

RESOLUTION 10-17

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT, *HAA AANI*

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 Alaska Natives and to provide them with a 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 regions and throughout the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska, Sealaska Corporation, is the single largest private employer in Southeast Alaska, providing anywhere from 600 to 800+ part-time and full-time jobs, annually, and contributing as much as \$90 million, annually, to the Southeast Alaskan economy through its logging contracts, road building activities, other timber-related activities, and total Sealaska economic output; and

WHEREAS, Sealaska also provides a significant benefit to Alaska Natives throughout the State of Alaska through its annual 7(i) revenue sharing contributions, totaling more than \$300 million since Sealaska began operating;

WHEREAS, some Alaska Native Corporations outside of Southeast Alaska have expressed extreme gratitude to Sealaska Corporation because the 7(i) payments that they have received have, in many instances, kept the Corporations out of bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, Sealaska, along with many other Alaska Native Corporations, has yet to receive conveyance for all of the ANCSA lands to which it is entitled; and

WHEREAS, Sealaska would like to engage in a comprehensive land entitlement and conservation initiative, which would allow it to complete its land entitlement by making cultural and economic land selections outside of the original withdrawal areas,

and would allow removal of the encumbrance created by the withdrawal of lands for selection by Native Corporations in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, if Sealaska does not receive conveyance of all of the lands to which it is entitled in the near term, the primary economic activity of Sealaska – logging – will cease in the near term, which will impact Southeast Alaska’s Native people, the Southeast Alaska economy, and the Alaska Native Corporations throughout the State that have come to rely upon Sealaska’s 7(i) contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Coffman Cove hereby supports the enactment by the United States Congress of a bill to complete Sealaska’s ANCSA land entitlement to allow Sealaska to continue to help meet the economic needs of the Native people of Southeast Alaska and Alaska Native Corporations throughout the State of Alaska.

ADOPTED, by the Coffman Cove City Council, at a meeting held in Coffman Cove, on this 18th day of March, 2010, with a quorum present.

CERTIFIED:

Mayor / Vice Mayor

ATTESTED:

City Clerk