

WRANGELL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2021 • Wrangell, Alaska 99929
Telephone: (907) 874-4304
Fax: (907) 874-4305
Email: wcatrIBE@gmail.com

Resolution No. 12-05-18-02


A Resolution Regarding the Ability of Tribes to organize under the Alaska Amendment to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934

- WHEREAS, the Wrangell Cooperative Association, hereafter “Tribe”, is a federally recognized Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, the Wrangell Cooperative Association is the governing body of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, the Wrangell Cooperative Association received a “Dear Tribal Leader” letter dated July 2, 2018, notifying Tribes of consultations and listening sessions regarding the ability of Tribes to organize under the Alaska Amendment to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and
- WHEREAS, Department of Interior representatives have assured Tribal leaders in Alaska that the IRA-related letter and consultation are meant to address only petitions from Alaska Native groups that are not presently listed by the BIA as federally recognized Tribes. This effort, then, does not directly impact currently-recognized Alaska Tribes; and
- WHEREAS, There are only two groups of Alaska Natives that are not federally recognized, but have pending petitions to organize under the Alaska IRA: the Quteckak Native Tribe in Seward, and Knugnak Village in Olsonville; and
- WHEREAS, There is already a clear eligibility standard in the statute itself – the “common bond” standard – for petitions for organization under the Alaska IRA; and
- WHEREAS, Petitioning under the Alaska IRA has long been understood in Alaska as an alternative to 25 CFR Part 83, by which Alaska Native groups may obtain federal recognition;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wrangell Cooperative Association’s position is that there is no need to develop new regulations or to engage in an extensive consultation to implement a statutory regime that has been in place for decades. Existing law should be followed;
- BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Wrangell Cooperative Association urges the DOI to rescind its July 2nd letter on this matter and re-direct its efforts to acting on the petitions of Quteckak and Knugnak, which have been pending for 25 years and 17 years respectively.

CERTIFICATION

The Wrangell Cooperative Association adopted this resolution during a meeting held on December 5, 2018, in Wrangell, Alaska, with a quorum present.

For 5 Against 0 Abstain Present 5 Absent 2

X  12/11/18
Richard Oliver, President Date

X  12/11/18
ATTEST Date