



## Tribal Council Resolution 2021- 18

### Support for “Alaskans for Better Government Ballot Initiative”

#### A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ALASKANS FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT BALLOT INITIATIVE - AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE THE TRIBES OF ALASKA.

WHEREAS: Native and Indigenous peoples have lived on the lands and waters now known as Alaska since time immemorial, and

WHEREAS: the existence of Tribes predates the formation of both United States and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: the inherent sovereignty of Native peoples and communities to govern themselves is a birthright, not something granted by the state or federal government, and

WHEREAS: Alaska has 40 percent of the 565 federally-recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes; and

WHEREAS: the cornerstone of any good relationship is respect; and

WHEREAS: the State of Alaska has denied the recognition of Tribes contrary to its own laws and that of the federal government, which enjoys effective, longstanding partnerships with 229 Tribes in Alaska addressing healthcare, education, public safety, and more; and

WHEREAS: the Alaska legislature has failed multiple attempts to advance resolution and bills that would have the State acknowledge Tribal sovereignty while state administrations treat Tribes and the Alaska Native community like political hot potatoes - in with one administration, out with the other; and

WHEREAS: the State of Alaska has sued Tribes more than any other state in the country, costing Alaska millions of dollars in losses, attorneys fees, opportunity costs, and creating a hostile and litigious relationship; and

WHEREAS: the State of Alaska’s recent attempts to compact with Tribes on child welfare, education, and healthcare demonstrates that it knows how beneficial this can be with significant opportunities for Alaska, but needs a mechanism to formalize recognition and support respectful relationships to achieve statewide benefits for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: Alaska Native peoples and communities historically and currently endure harmful and inequitable treatment from the State of Alaska, including policies that seek to criminalize them and undermine their ability to live healthy, happy lives with access to the lands, waters, cultures, and languages that sustain them and have stewarded Alaska for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS: the ability of sovereign governments to work together in a permanent government-to-government relationship would strengthen Alaska and create real, lasting opportunities to work together on issues that matter most to all citizens; and

WHEREAS: the Alaskans for Better Government ballot initiative has been proposed and certified for signature collection and needs to collect 36,140 signatures from registered voters to qualify for the Primary or General Election ballot of 2022; and

WHEREAS: the initiative would formalize state recognition of the Tribes in Alaska and create a permanent government-to-government relationship; and

WHEREAS: once secured, this recognition and relationship will allow for more effective and efficient governance, better policy making, and enhance the ability to leverage funding for services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council that Skagway Traditional Council shall endorse and support the Alaskans for Better Government ballot initiative proposed for the primary or general election ballot in 2021, this 3rd day of December 2021.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called meeting of the Tribal Council of the STC held on 12/3/2021 at which a quorum was present by a vote of

3 IN FAVOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAIN, 2 ABSENT.

  
STC - Tribal President

Attest:

  
STC - Tribal Secretary