

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 11- ____

TITLE: IN SUPPORT OF THE EFFORTS TO CREATE THE “ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE” WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROMOTE, ELEVATE, AND DEVELOP THE RECOGNIZED CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL ACTIVITY OF DOG MUSHING AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.

WHEREAS: A meeting of State and city economic development officers, tourism directors, marketers, and associates, business owners, Statewide sled dog racing directors and board members, mushers and sled dog club representatives, and a Native corporation tourism director was organized by George Atla Jr. and was held on October 9, 2009 in Fairbanks, Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The following resolution was proposed and later approved by the undersigned; and

WHEREAS: The State sport of Alaska is dog mushing, There is tremendous economic and tourism potential in the development of sled dog racing in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: While dog mushing is seen more of a sport in these times, the activity itself has deep roots in the historical, customary, and traditional lives of the first Alaskans. The sport of dog mushing is interwoven in the history and culture of our state and it is known that dog mushing played a critical role in the settlement and development of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The relationship between humans and dogs is valued and treasured by Native Alaska cultures. The relationship between humans and dogs, being on our land, and community involvement and support has proven to greatly enhance emotional and mental well being. It has and will continue to instill self-respect and pride in past, present, and future generations; and

WHEREAS: The body formed will be called the ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE; and

WHEREAS: The mission of the ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE is to promote, elevate and develop the sport of sled dog racing in all formats; distance, stage, sprint, etc., in locations all over Alaska as a means of generating economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE will support participating entities and/or organizations hosting sled dog races with promotional, marketing, and fundraising efforts that may not be otherwise available in volunteer-run organizations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives to support the ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE to offer a set of standards for entities hosting dog sled racing and to assist such organizations to adhere to and to further ensure the positive elevation of dog racing and the associated benefits to the State of Alaska. The ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE will enhance participating sled dog racing events in Alaska, creating an economic stimulus to the areas hosting the events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of Alaska Federation of Natives to support the mission of the ALASKA MUSHING ALLIANCE and its goal of continuing to enhance and perpetuate the customary and traditional practice of dog sledding that will generate economic stimulus through sled dog racing.

SUBMITTED BY: Huslia Tribal Council
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DATE: September 20, 2011

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