

Introduced by: Mayor Joseph Klejka
Date: October 8, 2013
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution #13-15

A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING THE JOINT BOARD OF FISH AND GAME PROPOSAL#41, WHICH WOULD CREATE THE BETHEL NON-SUBSISTENCE AREA

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Joint Board of Fish and Game will meet October 12-16, 2013 to consider a number of regulatory proposals;

WHEREAS, if approved, the proposals will, change the state's local fish and game advisory committees, and subsistence status within Bethel;

WHEREAS, according to the Alaska Administrative Code, in applying a subsistence law, the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game provide for conservation and development of Alaska's fish and game resources according to sustained yield principles;

Whereas , according to Alaska Administrative Code: "a nonsubsistence area is an area or community where dependence upon subsistence is not a principal characteristic of the economy, culture, and way of life of the area of community." 5 AAC 99.016 (a);

Whereas, according to the Alaska Administrative Code: "Subsistence hunting and fishing regulations will not be adopted for these areas and the subsistence priority does not apply." 5 AAC 99.016 (c);

Whereas, in Bethel dependence upon Subsistence is a principle CHARACTERISTIC OF the economy, culture, and way of life;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council strongly opposes Proposition 41, changing Bethel's status from a subsistence area to a non subsistence area;

WHEREAS, to determine if a community should be considered a non-subsistence area, the board must consider a number of items surrounding fish stocks, game populations, or portions of stocks or populations, that are customarily and traditionally taken or used by Alaska residents for subsistence uses;

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Whereas, the customary and traditional harvest of fish, waterfowl, and game is of paramount importance to the people of Bethel and the surrounding region;

WHEREAS, the Native residents of Bethel ancestors have lived in the region for thousands of years, living a subsistence lifestyle and relying on natural resources to survive;

WHEREAS, the residents of Bethel, both native and non-native, have for generations established a consistent reliance on the fish stock and game population, as well as followed traditional methods of processing the catches in conducting year round use of subsistence resources;

WHEREAS, traditional hunting and fishing values are being passed down from generation to generation so the younger generations will be responsible with their harvest and preserve their subsistence catches while provide for their families;

WHEREAS, Bethel community members responsibly utilize their harvest and catch in every possible way;

WHEREAS, the income per capita within the Bethel census district, is one of the lowest in the State and the residents of Bethel depend on subsistence harvests;

WHEREAS, the conservation of game animals, waterfowl, and fish is extremely important to the Bethel subsistence community,

Whereas, creation of a nonsubsistence area in Bethel would create hardship for the people of Bethel;

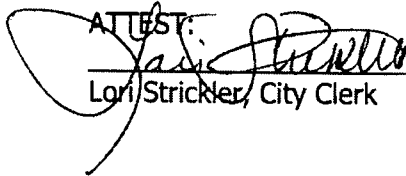
Whereas, creation of a nonsubsistence area would be create a cultural disconnect for the people of Bethel that is unjustified;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bethel City Council strongly opposes Proposal #41, the creation of the Bethel Nonsubsistence area and that the Bethel City Council Supports the customary and traditional use of fish and game by the people of Bethel and the surrounding areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8 DAY OF OCTOBER 2013, BY A 7 VOTE IN FAVOR AND A 0 VOTE IN OPPOSITION.

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Richard Robb, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk