

# AVCP

ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS  
P.O. BOX 219 • BETHEL, ALASKA 99559 • PHONE 543-3521

49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
BETHEL, ALASKA      OCTOBER 8-10, 2013

## RESOLUTION 13-10-26

**TITLE:      OPPOSITION TO STATE JOINT BOARDS PROPOSAL FOR  
              BETHEL NON-SUBSISTENCE USE AREA.**

WHEREAS The Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc. (AVCP) is the recognized tribal organization and non-profit Alaska Native regional corporation for its fifty-six member indigenous Native villages within Western Alaska and supports the endeavors of its member villages; and

WHEREAS AVCP fully supports its member villages in all aspects of their self-determination, health and well-being; and

WHEREAS A proposal has been submitted to the State Joint Boards of Fish and Game to make Bethel a non-subsistence use area; and,

WHEREAS Although Bethel is the largest community in the region, the use of subsistence resources continues to be a main characteristic of its economy in accordance with the relative importance of subsistence as identified in AS 16.05.258(c); and,

WHEREAS According to the 2010 census approximately 70% of Bethel residents are Alaska Native many of whom are from villages of the AVCP region who maintain their subsistence values; and,

WHEREAS The sponsor of this proposal fails to provide any justification as to why this change should even be considered or why Bethel "appears" to qualify as a non-subsistence use area;

WHEREAS As well as being entirely unjustified, confinement or establishment of such an area within Bethel city limits would serve no practical management purpose other than potential for some increase in harvest activities of Bethel residents to occur in more frequent proximity to neighboring villages; and

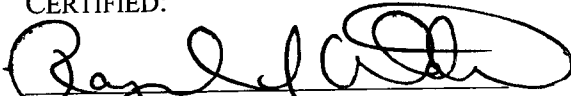
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that AVCP is opposed to Proposal #41 of the State Joint Boards of Fish and Board of Game to establish a non-subsistence use area for Bethel.


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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT; and that both of these Boards in their respective regulatory processes should actively pursue, refine and/or adopt actions that reflect the customary and traditional use of fish and game resources through recognized patterns of subsistence use as identified in A.S. 16.05.258(c) that can further distinguish and provide ability to limit recreational and potential commercial activities to occur under the protective, opportunistic guise of subsistence harvest priority

ADOPTED by the Association of Village Council Presidents during its forty-eighth annual convention held at Bethel, Alaska, this 9th day of October, 2013 with a duly constituted quorum of delegates.

CERTIFIED:

  
Raymond Watson, Chairman

  
Myron Naneng, President