

TCC TO CONDUCT TRIBAL NEGOTIATION AND CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL/STATE AGENCIES FOR CO-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS TO MAINTAIN OUR TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AND TRIBAL WAYS OF LIFE

WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native tribal health and social services consortium established by the Interior Alaska tribes and tribal communities, to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development and culture of the Interior Alaska Native; and

WHEREAS, Tribes are the stewards of our traditional territories, working tirelessly to protect intact ecosystems for the health of our fish and wildlife relatives, as the health of our places is inextricably tied to our health and wellbeing with tribal hunting and fishing practices the foundation of our culture; and

WHEREAS, Our aboriginal hunting and fishing rights were purportedly extinguished in the passage of Alaska Native Claims Settlements Act (ANCSA), nor adequately provided for in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and Alaska Tribes need our tribal rights recognized by the Federal and State governments to provide for our health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, Our traditional territories are currently under a complex matrix of jurisdictions, making it challenging to determine what regulations/laws apply to the management, stewardship, and use of our places and resources therein, resulting in threats to ecosystem health and unnecessary criminalization of our peoples for practicing our ways of life and culture; and

WHEREAS, Tribal self-governance and/or co-management of our traditional territories, including those lands held by the federal and state governments, is critical to the maintenance of our tribal hunting and fishing and stewardship practice, and Indigenous, tribally led stewardship is further necessary to meeting national climate change and conservation goals;

WHEREAS, Tribes have a proven track record of successfully managing hundreds of federal contracts worth billions of dollars annually to provide 'federal Indian programs' with the United States. These "self-governance contracts" have been enormously successful in improving the effective delivery of federal programs across Indian country; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, the State of Alaska recognized Alaska Tribes can more

effectively serve Alaska Native families when 16 Tribal Co-Signers entered into a Tribal/State Child Welfare Compact with the State of Alaska, to fund 100+ Tribes in running specific scopes of child welfare work on behalf of the Office of Children's Services, and the State of Alaska is currently exploring tribal compacts for education services; and

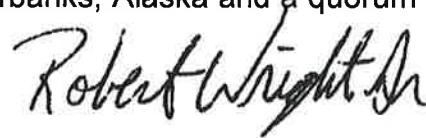

WHEREAS, The Tribes of the TCC Region recognize the importance of meaningful government to government consultation with Federal and State agencies as a minimum requirement to advocate for tribal self-determination and provision of our tribal rights to our ways of life; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has had the legal authority to enter self-governance contracts for the stewardship of traditional territories with Tribes (ISDEAA TITLE IV), however federal agencies have been slow to partner and collaborate with tribes in the management of federal public lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors directs staff to negotiate with Federal and State agencies, including but not limited to government-to-government consultation, to develop tribal co-management of our traditional territories.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March 16, 2022 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly achieved.



Charlie Wright
Secretary/Treasurer

by: Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government