



**ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
LEGISLATIVE AND LITIGATION COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION 19-01**

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING THE STATE’S FISCAL YEAR 2020 OPERATING BUDGET AS PASSED BY THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives is the oldest and largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, having 153 federally-recognized tribes, 185 village Native corporations, 12 regional Native corporations, 12 regional tribal non-profits, and a number of tribal consortiums that compact and contract to run federal and state programs as members; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN’s mission is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** AFN’s Articles of Incorporation call on the organization to ‘promote good government, by reminding those who govern and those who are governed of their joint and mutual responsibilities;’ and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Alaska has a constitutional responsibility to provide for the public education, public health, and public welfare of all Alaskans under Article VII, sections 1, 3, and 5 of Alaska’s constitution; and
- WHEREAS:** These responsibilities are not found in the foundational documents of other states, making their discharge particularly important to the inherent rights of Alaskans delineated in Article 1, Section 1 of Alaska’s constitution—namely ‘all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State;’ and
- WHEREAS:** The Legislature generally discharges its Article VII responsibilities by appropriating sufficient funds to operate state government, including essential services and supports; and
- WHEREAS:** The Governor typically carries out his Article VII responsibilities by signing the operating budget enacted by the Legislature with minimal line item vetoes; and
- WHEREAS:** Governor Dunleavy’s proposed fiscal year 2020 operating budget contained an unprecedented number of cuts to state government totaling more than \$1.5 billion, which reduced or eliminated services and supports for public education, public health, and public welfare; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska State Legislature took public testimony on the Governor’s proposed budget through a series of statewide hearings, and an overwhelming majority of the almost 1,100 who testified (990) strongly opposed it due to its economic and social impacts; and

WHEREAS: Responding to the needs of Alaskans, the Legislature sent the Governor a constitutionally responsible operating budget for FY ‘20, which was the smallest budget enacted in over a decade; and

WHEREAS: During the 2019 regular session, the Legislature spent considerable time working to understand the macro and micro innerworkings of state’s operating budget, and did so with meaningful input from Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The Governor vetoed or reduced almost 200 line items totaling nearly half a billion dollars from the state’s operating budget without explaining the short-term or long-term consequences to Alaskans; and

WHEREAS: The Governor vetoed crucial Village Public Safety Officer funding on the same day U.S. Attorney General William Barr declared a law enforcement emergency in rural Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Legislative and Litigation Committee, which has delegated authority to act on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives in between regularly scheduled meetings, that AFN will use all available means to support the implementation of the operating budget passed by the Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN pledges to work collaboratively with individuals and organizations on a bi-partisan basis to promote good government to achieve an Alaska by the people and for the people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.



Julie E. Kitka

**Julie Kitka
President**

SUBMITTED BY: Legislative and Litigation Committee

COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED