

**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
AND NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
JOINT RESOLUTION B-2023**

A JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVING A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS FOR SHARED FOOD SECURITY RESOURCES AND TO WORK WITH TRIBAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PARTNERS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO ACHIEVE IÑUPIAT-BASED MANAGEMENT TO SUSTAIN FOOD SECURITY IN PERPETUITY.

WHEREAS: the North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough are the two northernmost home-rule regional governments in Alaska established to exercise our right for local control and self-determination for our people and communities; and

WHEREAS: The North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough have a long history of collaboration and partnership; and

WHEREAS: Food security is a top priority for both Boroughs and our residents; and

WHEREAS: The North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough share many commonalities including the Iñupiat culture and traditional subsistence way of life; and

WHEREAS: Subsistence activities, including the pursuit, harvest, processing, sharing, and consumption of fish and wildlife resources are central to the Iñupiat culture and essential in maintaining the physical, nutritional, cultural, and spiritual health of our people; and

WHEREAS: The North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough shall collaborate to create and advocate for an Iñupiat-based management structure that realizes our self-determination; and

WHEREAS: The North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough are adjacent to each other and share the resources of the Bering, Beaufort, and Chukchi Seas, river systems, and the terrestrial environment; and

WHEREAS: The two Boroughs' Planning Departments oversee all commercial recreation permits for transporters and hunting guides for their

respective boroughs and utilize their powers, permitting authority, and enforcement to the fullest extent and both Boroughs shall exercise a limitation of the number of recreational guiding permits issued per season in times of population decline in our renewable resources; and

WHEREAS: Non-resident sport hunting, guiding, and transporter operations are increasingly impacting opportunities for successful subsistence harvests by residents of both Boroughs; and

WHEREAS: Tribes have unique status as sovereign governments within the region, and share the same interests with respect to maintaining the integrity of the Arctic marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and the food security of their tribal members; and

WHEREAS: The two Boroughs shall initiate a memorandum of agreement with the State of Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board to promote public awareness on how to report unpermitted transporters to safeguard each Borough's food security; and

WHEREAS: The North Slope Borough's Department of Wildlife Management (DWM) actively facilitates sustainable harvest and monitors populations of fish and wildlife species through scientific research, indigenous ecological knowledge, and advocacy for its inclusion in decision making; and

WHEREAS: For many decades, the DWM has also provided support and leadership to advance local interests while attaining a high level of respect for its work; and

WHEREAS: Established by Borough Code and acting as a link between North Slope Borough communities and the North Slope Borough's DWM, the NSB Fish and Game Management Committee assists the DWM in setting its research goals and priorities and selecting research projects; and the Northwest Arctic Borough could benefit from utilizing this resource; and

WHEREAS: Both Boroughs agree to collaborate to refine their understanding of the Arctic marine and terrestrial ecosystems with the goals of maintaining ecological integrity and biodiversity, maintaining the sustainable subsistence use of resources of the Arctic environment, and participating in responsible decision-making regarding resource development; and

WHEREAS: Both Boroughs agree that collaborative efforts on science and wildlife management-related issues between the Boroughs, including food security issues, will benefit our regions; and

WHEREAS: Working collaboratively can more effectively address the threat of food insecurity, and provide a mechanism to share valuable research information on issues such as Iñupiat traditional ecological knowledge and local observations through a holistic approach based on traditional Iñupiaq practices that can be applied to the regulatory processes when wildlife populations are increasing, stable, or in decline.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Prior to the next joint meeting, Borough staff will develop a Strategic Plan that will define the roles and responsibilities in implementing the shared goals of this Resolution, including the creation of an Iñupiat-based management structure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough agree for respective staff to meet at least annually in person, with their respective science teams, cultural experts, and other experts; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough agree to work collaboratively on mutually beneficial food security efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough agree to enhance communication about our shared subsistence resources and to collaborate with appropriate state and federal agencies and tribes to establish food security as a priority, and strive to achieve maximum Iñupiat self-determination through Iñupiat-based management.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF April 2023.



Nathan Hadley, Jr.
NAB Assembly President



Vernon A. Edwardson
NSB Assembly President

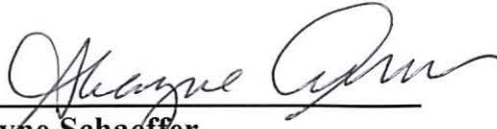


Dickie Moto, Sr.
NAB Mayor



Harry K. Brower, Jr.
NSB Mayor

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 7th DAY OF April 2023.



Shayne Schaeffer
NAB Clerk



Elaine Solomon
NSB Clerk

ATTEST:



ATTEST: