



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #DEN-07-036

**TITLE: “The Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuge and Wilderness
Enhancement and King Cove Safe Access Act” H.R. 2801 and S. 1680**

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, Alaska have lived on the Alaska Peninsula for over 4,000 years and have fished, hunted and subsisted throughout this area the entire time; and

WHEREAS, the King Cove-Cold Bay area at the western end of the Alaska Peninsula is one of the most isolated areas in the State of Alaska and because of this isolation, the indigenous people of this area have lived relatively undisturbed until the last 50-60 years; and

WHEREAS, this relative isolation was abruptly interrupted by the invasion of the Aleutians in World War II and has continued unabated including the construction of one of the largest airports in the State of Alaska at Cold Bay by the US Army in the 1940's; and

WHEREAS, the Cold Bay Airport is the lifeline for the King Cove residents to the outside world, particularly for the life, health and safety needs of these indigenous residents, but there is currently no surface access to this airport despite the Cold Bay Airport being only 25 miles from King Cove and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Agdaagux Tribe has been struggling for the past 25 years for permission from the federal government for the construction of a road between the village of King Cove and Cold Bay Airport, but until now the federal government has not agreed to this road construction; and

WHEREAS, the *Izembek and Peninsula Refuge and Wilderness Enhancement and King Cove Safe Access Act* has now been introduced in the 110th Congress (S. 1680 and HR. 2801) to authorize a land exchange between the federal government and the King Cove Corporation (ANSCA-village corporation) and State of Alaska in order to obtain the necessary road right-of-way to construct a 9 mile, gravel, single-lane road to complete the missing road link between King Cove and the Cold Bay Airport; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, State of Alaska, King Cove Corporation and all other interested tribes support this legislation; and

WHEREAS, all supporters of this legislation acknowledge that the eelgrass beds of the Izembek Lagoon are of vital importance for migratory waterfowl but that the road will not impact the migratory waterfowl.

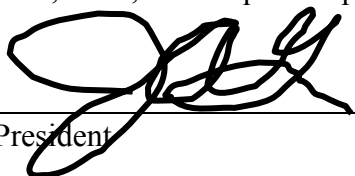
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, because of public health and safety concerns, the NCAI does hereby support the passage of legislation by the US Congress and the Alaska Legislature to endorse this proposed land exchange between and among the King Cove Corporation, State of Alaska, and United States of America which will ultimately result in the establishment of a permanent road between the King Cove and Cold Bay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the road planning process will provide for consultation with all interested parties; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until the final adjournment of the 110th Congress.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2007 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado on November 11-16, 2007, with a quorum present.



 President

ATTEST:



 Recording Secretary