

AVCP Board to bring Bird Issue before U.S. Courts

RESOLUTION

No. 4-80-1

Whereas, the Alaska Natives and residents of village, Alaska, are citizens of the United States with full rights as citizens, and

Whereas, the Alaska Natives and residents of village, Alaska as citizens of the United States have the full protection of the Constitution of the United States, and

Whereas, one of those protections is the right to due process under the law, and

Whereas, the right to life cannot be penalized by the United States Government by any means, and

Whereas, the Alaska Natives have been dependent upon migratory waterfowl for physical and cultural sustenance since time immemorial, and

Whereas, the pursuit of life has never endangered the waterfowl species in the thousands of years the Eskimos and Indians have harvested them, and

Whereas, the pursuit of life became illegal in 1918 with the signing by the United States Government of the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and

Whereas, in this Act the Alaska Natives were not consulted or asked their view as citizens of the United States, and

Whereas, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act does not allow for spring hunting of the migratory waterfowl who nest on our lands in total safety, and

Whereas, it is illegal under provisions of the act for Alaska Natives to hunt to feed their families with migratory waterfowl, and

Whereas, this restriction has made DE FACTO criminals of all Alaska Native hunters, and,

Whereas, this restriction has placed an undue hardship upon Alaska Native families, and

Whereas, political efforts at correcting this wrong have thus far failed,

Now be it resolved, by the Association of Village Council Presidents Board of Directors to seek asylum under the Constitution of the United States from this unreasonable, inhumane law, and to seek redress from the courts of the United States whose duty is to protect the Constitution of the United States and the rights of American Citizens, and

Be It Further Resolved, by the Association of Village Council Presidents Board of Directors that the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice name an independent task force to study this issue on behalf of the Alaska Natives, and

Be It Further Resolved, by the Association of Village Council Presidents Board of Directors to immediately begin the process of bringing this issue before the courts of the United States for redress.

Passed and approved this 25th day of April, 1980, in Bethel, Alaska.

s/Edward Hoffman, Sr., Chairman 4/25/80