



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Fifth Annual Tribal Assembly
October 1, 2020
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 20-25

Title: Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Commitment to Climate Mobilization

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 32,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Tlingit and Haida people have existed since time immemorial as the guardians of their lands and waters; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Taku Glacier, the last remaining glacier to retreat on the planet, began to recede and shrink since measurements first began in 1946; and

WHEREAS, the current rate of ocean acidification is faster than any time on record; ten times faster than the last major acidification event 55 million years ago; and

WHEREAS, unprecedented extreme local weather events such as sustained ocean warming and regional droughts have afflicted our lands and waters in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass National Forest, the world's fourth largest forest, has significant global carbon sink and is currently being studied by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service for alternatives that would open it up for additional logging, threatening our local ability to combat climate change; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 Tlingit & Haida recognized the threat of climate change and commissioned the Climate Change Adaptation Plan to begin the long process of addressing the consequences presented by global climate change; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida found in said plan that the threat of climate change would seriously threaten subsistence living, traditional gathering grounds, salmon, halibut, herring, shellfish, and yellow cedar; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida is committed to a high quality of life for all of its tribal citizens, seven generations, and beyond, with access to healthy, affordable housing, environmentally friendly transportation options, access to sustainable jobs, a rich cultural

community that honors our ancestors and culture, and a thriving ecological environment to sustain our salmon, orca, and other threatened wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida, through the National Congress of American Indians, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by reaffirming the Paris Agreement, and working to limit warming to no more than 1.5°C; and

WHEREAS, global temperatures having increased approximately 1.1°C above late 19th century levels, demonstrating that climate change is causing damage to the earth as experienced by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, homelessness, species extinctions, food and potable water shortages, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, unchecked climate change will bring evermore drastic decline to the health and prosperity of future generations, particularly for indigenous communities such as our own; and

WHEREAS, the longer we delay taking definitive action to reduce carbon pollution the greater the threat posed by climate change to current and future generations and the more costly it will be to protect and maintain our community from the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires “Climate Mobilization” across all of our society, including all levels of government and across all economic sectors including: agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and energy production at a speed and scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions, to rapidly and safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, transition to a climate-safe future requires the need for regional community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that the residents of Southeast Alaska, particularly frontline communities, villages, and community organizations, including communities of faith, youth, organized labor, business, academic institutions, and environmental, economic, racial, gender, family and disability justice, indigenous, immigrant, and women’s rights organizations and other such allies will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2019 and December 6, 2019 our youth joined with their allies around the world to call for a global Climate Emergency and greater, more urgent climate leadership from their elected officials and public institutions; and

WHEREAS, we have seen time and again that seemingly impossible challenges can be met when our community is mobilized; and

WHEREAS, each generation has a duty to preserve a sustainable and healthy planet for future generations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Fifth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened on October 1,

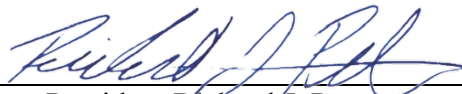
2020, hereby declares that our sovereign nation, the region, the state, the United States of America, civilization, humanity, and the natural world are experiencing a climate emergency, and that Tlingit & Haida commits to a climate emergency mobilization effort to combat global warming that will result in a just transition to a carbon neutral economy by 2050 and accelerates adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida will identify goals and policies to bolster the Tribe's sustainability efforts and reduce its climate impact; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida will work with local partners, governments, and other tribes to address a regionally comprehensive and coordinated effort to combat climate change.

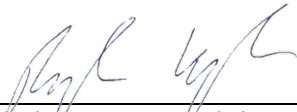
ADOPTED this 1st day of October 2020, by the Eighty-Fifth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe