



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

Resolution TA 20-26

Title: Establishment of Veteran Staff Support and Support for Amendment of the Alaska Native Vietnam Era Veterans Land Allotment Act

By: Sitka 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, Public Law 116-9 included the Alaska Native Vietnam Era Veterans Land Allotment Act and the purpose of this Act is to provide an opportunity for certain Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans to select and receive an allotment of federal land in the State of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, under the Act an “eligible individual” means an individual who is a Native veteran who served during the period between August 5, 1964 and December 31, 1971; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native veterans served in the armed forces at the highest rates; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native veterans did not have a reasonable opportunity to comment on this bill, and due diligence was not made to hear their voices; and

WHEREAS, lands selected by Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act or a regional or village corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, but not yet conveyed, can be made available by the state or the corporations for selection; and

WHEREAS, the act includes “Exclusions” such that the term “available Federal land” does not include any federal land in Alaska that is a right of way of the trans-Alaska Pipeline, an inner or outer corridor of such right away, withdrawn or acquired for purposes of the Armed Forces, under review for a pending right of way for a natural gas corridor, within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, within a unit of the National Forest System, within a unit of the National Park System, a National Preserve, or a National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall conduct outreach, and aid in applying for allotments, to eligible individuals; and

WHEREAS, in general, an eligible individual may select not more than 2 parcels of available federal land totaling not more than 160 acres; a parcel of available federal land selected shall not be less than 2.5 acres;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Fifth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened on Oct 1, 2020 hereby states that Tlingit & Haida supports the Alaska Native Vietnam Veteran's Coalition for Lands, and their effort to pursue amendment to Public Law 116-9 to allow Alaska Native veterans to draw lands from the Tongass National Forest; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida shall continue to be a strong advocate for our Alaska Native Veterans, who not only protected our great United States of America, but our ancestral homelands.

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