



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eighty-Ninth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 17-19, 2024
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 24-16

Title: Opposition to Outstanding National Resource Water Politicalization in HB 95 and SB 72

By: Ketchikan 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 37,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, clean water is essential to our communities and the health of our Tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, some waters are so essential to our citizens as salmon habitat, drinking water, and for other ecological values that they should not be used to dump industrial waste; and

WHEREAS, currently industries seeking to use these waters to discharge waste are only required to seek an administrative permit through the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to degrade essential waters; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alaska seeks to set an additional burden on our communities to protect essential waters from pollution by requiring an act of the legislature to designate a Tier 3 water in HB 95 and SB 72; and

WHEREAS, it should not be more difficult to protect clean water and human health than it is to degrade essential waters and threaten human health; and

WHEREAS, protecting essential waters should be based on local, science-driven criteria and not politicalized through the legislature; and

WHEREAS, a Tier 3 designation does not preclude normal use of the waters for fishing, boating and non-point source discharges such as runoff or discharges to ground water like septic tanks and only prohibits end-of-pipe point source discharges that would lower the quality of the water;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 17-19, 2024, hereby opposes the passage of HB 95 and SB 72;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Tlingit & Haida hereby requests the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation process the Tier 3 nominations for the Chilkat River submitted by the Chilkat Indian Village and the Yakutat Forelands submitted the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe as they would any application seeking to degrade these waters.


ADOPTED this 17th day of April, 2024, by the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata