



KAWERAK, INC.

REPRESENTING

Brevig Mission

Sitaisaq

Council

Akauchak

Diomedes

Inaliq

Elim

Neviarquarluk

Gambell

Sivuqaq

Golovin

Chinik

King Island

Ugiuvak

Koyuk

Kuuyuk

Mary's Igloo

Iglaaruk

Nome Eskimo

Sitnasuami Inuit

Savoonga

Sivungaq

Shaktoolik

Saktuliq

Shishmaref

Kigiqtaq

Solomon

Anuutaq

St. Michael

Taciq

Stebbins

Tapraq

Teller

Tupqaqruk

Unalakleet

Uqalaqtiq

Wales

Kinigin

White Mountain

Natchigvik

KAWERAK INC

P.O. BOX 948

NOME, ALASKA 99762

RESOLUTION 2023-02

By Full Board of Directors

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REDUCING SHIPPING BLACK CARBON AND
SCRUBBER EMISSIONS IN THE ARCTIC**

WHEREAS: Kawerak Inc. is an Alaska Native regional non-profit corporation and tribal consortium made up of the twenty federally recognized tribes of the Bering Strait region of Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The Bering Strait is home to exceptional Arctic ecological biodiversity; and

WHEREAS: Villages in the region have a deep cultural reliance on the harvesting and sharing of marine resources for subsistence. The St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Inupiaq, and Yup'ik peoples have benefited from these waters for thousands of years. Traditional practices tie families together through the passing of knowledge from one generation to the next; and

WHEREAS: The Bering Sea forms one of the most productive high latitude seas, sustaining traditional communities and a world-class commercial seafood industry. All told, the marine ecosystem supports more than 450 species of fish, crustaceans, and mollusks, including red king crab, Tanner crab, Pacific halibut, herring, Pollock, Pacific cod, flatfish, sablefish, and all five species of salmon. These fish depend on a healthy population of plankton and other lower-trophic level species for food, including at the sea-surface; and

WHEREAS: The Bering Strait hosts a diversity of marine mammal species, including Pacific walrus, sixteen whale species, harbor seals, and the four ice seal species: ringed, bearded, spotted, and ribbon. Two of these seal species, ringed and bearded, are listed on the Endangered Species List as threatened due to habitat loss and less sea ice. Numerous marine mammal species, including seals, whales, and Pacific walrus utilize the winter icepack for resting, rearing and feeding and migrate throughout the Bering Sea, Bering Strait and the Arctic Ocean. Pacific walrus males aggregate and haul out on islands and capes in Bristol Bay in the summer. Many species of seals feed on abundant resources and haul out on beaches to molt; and

WHEREAS: The Arctic and Bering Sea are crucial to regulating the world's climate and sustaining life on earth. The Arctic is an ocean surrounded by land and plays a key part in maintaining the climate across the globe. It supports highly productive and diverse wildlife populations and is the home of Indigenous communities who depend on a healthy and functioning polar ecosystem; and

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Advancing the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region.

Tungwenuk Family Qupak Design, used with permission

- WHEREAS:** International shipping regulated by the IMO can impact these natural resources. As shipping increases throughout the Arctic and Bering Sea due to climate change, Tribal and Indigenous perspectives at entities like the IMO are needed to provide input on mitigating potential impacts, especially on issues related to accidental oil spills, toxic ship emissions and wastewater/ballast water discharges that can impact the environment and wildlife that Indigenous peoples here have depended on for thousands of years; and
- WHEREAS:** If the Arctic is in crisis, then our planet is in crisis. The loss of Arctic sea ice is also resulting in increased industrial activity and new shipping routes. Commercial and cruise ship traffic produces high levels of climate pollutants and emissions that are damaging to human health, marine discharges that are harmful to wildlife and disturbance from underwater noise. With increased traffic also comes increased risk of accidents, oil spills and loss of life in remote, poorly chartered and difficult to navigate waters; and
- WHEREAS:** Emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, such as black carbon, are powerful climate forces that contribute to global heating. Black carbon particles settling in the Arctic increase the snow and ice melt, reduce reflectivity and accelerate warming. Reducing emissions of short-lived climate pollutants will help to reduce the rate of climate change and is critical to meeting long-term climate goals; and
- WHEREAS:** As Arctic shipping grows, the use of heavy oil-based fuels which emit high levels of black carbon will contribute to the disintegration and collapse of Arctic ice. Switching to cleaner fuels and using diesel particulate filters, or alternative forms of propulsion are possible today and will significantly reduce black carbon emissions. Continuing the use of heavy oil-based fuels by installing scrubbers to reduce air pollution must be stopped, as the wastewater produced in the process is discharged into the sea creating an ocean pollution problem; and
- WHEREAS:** We believe a holistic approach is required and we urge the international community to support urgent action to reduce shipping impacts on Arctic wildlife, habitats, ecosystems and communities, and specifically call for urgent action to halve ship climate impacts by 2030, an immediate switch to cleaner, non-fossil fuels to cut ship black carbon emissions, a ban on the use of scrubbers.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Full Board of Director of Kawerak Inc. that it requests that the US Delegation and others at the International Maritime Organization to work with Tribes, Tribal consortia and other Indigenous and environmental groups to set up processes and mechanisms to reduce the use of fuels and technologies that emit black carbon emissions as well as to do all it can to reduce scrubber wastewater emissions in the Arctic.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Chairman and Secretary of the Kawerak, Inc. Board of Directors hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by majority vote of the Board during a duly called meeting on March 09, 2023.

By: *Frank Kellogg*
Kawerak Board Chairman

Kirsten Timbers
Kawerak Board Secretary

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