



CITY OF BETHEL

P O Box 388 Bethel, Alaska 99559
907-543-2297
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Presented by: Council Member Miller
Date: March 25, 1997
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

RESOLUTION #97-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL OBJECTING TO THE USE OF STATE FUNDING TO APPEAL THE VENETIE INDIAN COUNTRY COURT RULING.

WHEREAS, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *Venetie v. State of Alaska* that the village of Venetie is in Indian Country and enjoys certain powers of self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid ruling represents a major step forward in the process by which Alaska Native villages are resuming power and responsibility for their own communities and families; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and State Legislature of Alaska have appropriated \$1,000,000 to appeal the 9th Circuit Court's decision to the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, of the \$1,000,000 appropriation, \$500,000 has been allocated for use by the Department of Law to prepare and file a Writ of Certiorari, and \$500,000 has been allocated to the State Legislature, for uses that have yet to be specified; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has cut Municipal Assistance and Revenue Sharing, has under-funded Power Cost Equalization, and has proposed to eliminate other state-funded programs due to fiscal constraints, and;

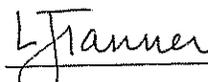
WHEREAS, rural Alaskan communities are most affected by the budget cuts made by the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, objects to the use of \$1,000,000 to appeal the Venetie Ruling, especially in consideration of the cutbacks made by the State Legislature which have a detrimental effect on rural Alaskan Communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Bethel, Alaska supports the ruling of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and encourages the Native Village of Venetie to persevere in the great task of taking back control of its own affairs and its own future.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH, 1997.

ATTEST:


L.J. Tanner, City Clerk


Ruth M. "Wally" Richardson, Mayor