



# Bering Sea Elders Group

## BERING SEA ELDERS GROUP

### RESOLUTION 2018-3

#### **TITLE: RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING REQUEST TO REINSTATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE NORTHERN BERING SEA CLIMATE RESILIENCE AREA**

Whereas, the Bering Sea Elders Group (BSEG) is a tribal consortium and is comprised of designees of 39 federally recognized Tribes on the west coast of Alaska; and

Whereas, through our federally recognized Tribal governments, we have the right to participate fully in all levels of decision-making in policies that affect our Tribes, our Indigenous Knowledge, and to exercise our government-to-government rights; and

Whereas, the Bering Sea is part of our identities as Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and Inupiaq people, and is as important to us as the land; and

Whereas, climate change, ocean acidification, warming waters, increased shipping, the potential for oil and gas development, and the introduction of invasive species are affecting our way of life and threatening our communities; and

Whereas, we passed a Resolution in June 2016 asking President Obama to issue an Executive Order protecting the Bering Sea and describing the features we wanted in that Order; and

Whereas, on December 9, 2016, President Obama issued Executive Order 13754 creating the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area, and its provisions were substantially similar to those BSEG requested in our Resolution; and

Whereas, in January 2017, members of BSEG went to Washington, D.C. to urge Alaska's congressional delegation to protect Executive Order 13754 and not allow it to be changed or revoked; and

Whereas, on April 28, 2017, with no notice or consultation with our member Tribes or BSEG itself, President Trump revoked Executive Order 13754 in a new Executive Order called "Implementing an America First Offshore Strategy"; and

Whereas, BSEG, AVCP, and Kawerak have sent two joint letters to Alaska's senators asking to work together to reinstate the provisions of Executive Order 13754 in legislation; and

Whereas, as of September 2018, BSEG is not aware of draft legislation that would reinstate the provisions of Executive Order 13754; and

Whereas, BSEG remains committed to reinstating the provisions of Executive Order 13754 and intends to pursue this until such action is taken.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: BSEG requests that Executive Order 13754, which created the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area, be reinstated as originally issued; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: BSEG requests that legislation be passed immediately that is identical to Executive Order 13754 or is more protective than the terms in that Order.

ADOPTED by the tribally designated Elder Representatives of the Bering Sea Elders Group, and signed on behalf of those Tribes during its Annual Summit held in Anchorage, Alaska on this 20th day of September, 2018.