

**A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly Supporting the Continuation of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.**

**WHEREAS**, the creation of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve ("Preserve") in 1982 was a delicately structured agreement between commercial, industrial, environmental, tribal, federal, state and municipal interests following years of heated debate over use of 48,000 acres of public land, including the bald eagle critical habitat area; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of the Preserve balanced protection of America's symbol with protection of traditional uses including commercial guiding, hunting, trapping, fishing, rafting, boating, sightseeing, river-boating, flightseeing and hiking, and personal recreational activities including fish processing, sightseeing, photography, sport fishing, trapping, subsistence fishing, berry picking, mushroom-picking, hunting, power boating, gathering roots and bark for traditional uses, Native bartering, canoeing, kayaking, camping, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, recreational mining, target-shooting, snow machining, picnicking, and cutting Christmas trees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council ("Council"), created in legislation concurrently with the Preserve, has served for 40 years as a collective voice to the State of Alaska of local hunters, fishermen, subsistence and recreational users, as well as for state and federal biologists, commercial users, conservation interests, Alaska Natives, and municipal officials on preserve management issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council's 12 representatives include representatives of business/industry, conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee, Haines Borough Mayor, Haines Borough Assembly, Chilkat Indian Village, Chilkoot Indian Association, Klukwan, Inc., Alaska Divisions of Forestry and state Division of Parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council has proved itself for 40 years to be a successful arbiter of management questions and issues that have arisen since the creation of the Preserve, successfully resolving matters that would otherwise have led to protracted dispute and possible litigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council provides the State of Alaska with the invaluable knowledge and expertise of long-time residents and tribal members who understand the wildlife, uses and history of this area treasured by residents and visitors alike; and

**WHEREAS**, the work by the Council provides the State of Alaska with a consensus viewpoint on Preserve issues, thus saving state managers time and money that would otherwise be spent by the state in determining the consensus of local views; and

**WHEREAS**, the peaceful management of the Preserve relies on the sensitive administration of this unique preserve through the work of the Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Preserve is not a park, but is a preserve with unique a legislative mandate unrelated to the other programs in the Division of Parks; and

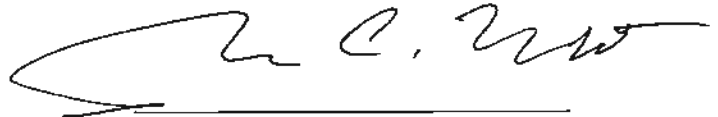
**WHEREAS**, the Preserve has different management needs and requirements and objectives from any other unit under Division control; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council was created as an independent council by the Legislature as an entity to ensure that the unique legislative purposes of the Preserve -- perpetual protection of the eagles and their habitat while protecting customary and traditional uses -- are maintained over time, and that area management remains consistent with advice of this council; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Dunleavy has issued an executive order that would abolish the Council and terminate its vital work,

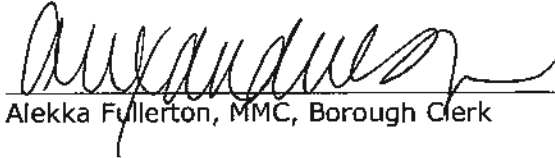
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY** stands in strong support of the continuation of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council as it is presently constituted and operates.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 13th day of February, 2024.



Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

Attest:

  
Alekka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk