



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 23-19

- TITLE:** SUPPORTING PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP LEGISLATION FOR ELECTRONICS RECYCLING AND REMOVAL FROM COMMUNITY LANDFILLS
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 179 federally recognized tribes, 154 village corporations, 9 regional corporations, and 10 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The proliferation of electronic devices in our society has led to a significant increase in electronic waste (e-waste), posing a growing environmental and public health concern; and
- WHEREAS:** E-waste contains hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, and cadmium that can leach into soil and water sources, and emit into the air when burned, posing a serious threat to the environment and public health when improperly disposed of; and
- WHEREAS:** The heavy plastic encasing electronics, when crushed and burned in landfills, emit cancer-causing dioxins into the air, posing a serious threat to public health and the environment; and
- WHEREAS:** Most rural Alaska Native communities have smaller, Class III landfills, which are unlined, unregulated, and burn trash to reduce mass, therefore allowing more of the harmful electronic toxins into the environment when crushed and burned; and
- WHEREAS:** The safe and responsible management of electronics is essential to protect our environment, conserve valuable resources, and reduce the carbon footprint associated with electronic products; and
- WHEREAS:** 25 other states and many other countries have recognized the importance of addressing e-waste through the implementation of product stewardship programs, which shift the responsibility for the proper recycling and end-disposal of e-waste from consumers to the manufacturers of electronic devices; and
- WHEREAS:** Product stewardship legislation for electronics has proven to be an effective and sustainable approach in over 25 states, helping to divert e-waste from landfills,

promote recycling, and reduce the harmful environmental impacts associated with improper disposal; and

WHEREAS: By introducing product stewardship legislation for e-waste, communities can incentivize manufacturers to design products with greater consideration for their end-of-life management, encourage the responsible recycling and disposal of e-waste, and reduce the financial burden on local governments and taxpayers for e-waste management.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that delegates of the 2023 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the Alaska State Legislature to introduce and pass comprehensive product stewardship legislation for e-waste in Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the delegates of the 2023 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives request the AFN Legislative and Litigation Committee assist in drafting product steward legislation that is specific to rural Alaska to ensure that manufacturers' responsibility for the collection and proper recycling and disposal of their electronic products is not passed on to communities and that this legislation require and promote public awareness and education about the importance of recycling e-waste.

SUBMITTED BY: THE AFN COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: ADOPTED ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023