

# RESOLUTIONS

## Tribal Resolutions in Support of Smokefree Workplace Policies are Important Because...

Policies protect adults and children from secondhand smoke, tobacco-related diseases and addiction.

- Alaska Native people suffer from tobacco-related diseases and die from them at higher rates than the general public
- Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Alaska, causing nearly 600 deaths each year
- Alaska Native adults are almost twice as likely to smoke as non-Native adults (41% vs 21%)
- Smokefree and tobacco-free policies allow children the opportunity to grow up healthy and tobacco-free
- Smokefree policies protect people from secondhand smoke, encourage quitting, and discourage youth from starting
- 88% of adults and 71% of smokers in Alaska agree people should be protected from secondhand smoke
- Smokefree policies have a positive impact on business and employment

“ Passing a tobacco-free resolution is just another step to keeping our tribe and youth healthy. ”

- Josie Dayton of Koyukuk Tribal Council

Alaska Native tribes are taking action to eliminate tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace. Many tribes have instituted tobacco-free and smokefree workplace policies over the years, but today there is a growing movement to tackle the issue of tobacco use at a local level.



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## Model Statewide Smokefree Workplace Resolution

**Whereas**, the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of tribe), is an Indian tribe as defined in Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93-638, 25 U.S.C. 450b; and

**Whereas**, Alaska Native people have the highest rate of tobacco use in the state of Alaska; and

**Whereas**, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and Alaska Native people suffer serious health consequences including heart disease and cancer; and

**Whereas**, secondhand tobacco smoke exposure is another leading cause of preventable death, and causes disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and cancer; and

**Whereas**, it has been determined by the U.S. Surgeon General that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, air ventilation systems do not work, and that only completely smokefree environments can protect health; and

**Whereas**, a significant amount of secondhand smoke exposure for Alaska Native adults and children occurs in the workplace and even short exposures may result in serious adverse health effects and even death; and

**Whereas**, smokefree workplace laws protect people from secondhand smoke, reduce tobacco use overall, support healthy lifestyles, model healthy behavior, and support quit attempts; and

**Whereas**, the health of our people is of upmost importance and Alaska Natives have taken a lead in addressing health issues throughout the years; and

**Whereas**, smokefree workplaces will protect the health of our children, grandchildren and all our people.

**Now therefore be it resolved**, the \_\_\_\_\_ supports statewide adoption of a smokefree workplace law to protect Alaska Natives from the known dangers of secondhand smoke.

### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Association on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2012 at which a quorum was present, with a vote of \_\_\_ for, \_\_\_ against, \_\_\_ abstentions, \_\_\_ absent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Attest

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name), Tribal Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

For a sample tobacco-free or smokefree workplace resolution, implementation packet or educational materials, please contact Andrea Thomas at 907-966-8883, [andreat@searhc.org](mailto:andreat@searhc.org) or Edy Rodewald at 907-364-4452, [erode@searhc.org](mailto:erode@searhc.org).

