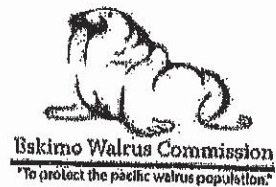


Kawerak, Inc.  
P.O. Box 948 Nome, AK 99762  
Telephone: (907)-443-4380 or (907)-638-6402  
Toll Free: 1-877-277-4392  
Fax: (907)-443-4484



**Eskimo Walrus Commission Executive Committee**

**Resolution 2016-01**

**A Resolution Opposing the Inclusion of Walrus, Mammoth, and Mastodon Ivory in African Elephant Ivory Ban Laws in the United States**

WHEREAS, the Eskimo Walrus Commission was formed in 1978 by Kawerak, Inc. and represents 19 coastal subsistence walrus hunting communities in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the use of legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory by Alaska Native carvers to create tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork is a longstanding cultural tradition that continues to be a vital component of Alaska Native culture today; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) explicitly protects the right of coastal Alaska Natives to harvest marine mammals and utilize their byproducts in handicrafts for sale in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the sale of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory tools, handicrafts, jewelry, and artwork by Alaska Natives is an important source of income in the cash-limited economies of rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to stem the poaching of African elephants, various U.S. states have passed laws banning the sale, use, or possession of all ivory, and additional states are considering such laws; and

WHEREAS, these ivory ban laws fail to acknowledge the difference between African elephant ivory and legally acquired walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory used by Alaska Native artists; and

WHEREAS, these state ivory ban laws may cause residents of those states to face prosecution for buying, owning, or bringing home legally acquired ivory from Alaska; and

WHEREAS, these state ivory ban laws will negatively impact Alaska Native artists who depend on the sale of their handicrafts as a source of important income in a cash-limited economy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eskimo Walrus Commission opposes the inclusion of walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory in ivory ban laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Eskimo Walrus Commission requests that walrus, mammoth, and mastodon ivory be exempted from current and future ivory ban laws in the United States.

EWC Member  
Communities:  
Barrow  
Brevig Mission  
Gambell  
King Island  
Kivalina  
Kotzebue  
Kwigillingok  
Little Diomed  
Manokotak  
Mekoryuk  
Nome  
Point Hope  
Point Lay  
Savoonga  
Shishmaref  
Stebbins  
Unalakleet  
Wainwright  
Wales

Charles D.N. Brower  
Charles D.N. Brower, Chair

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, the undersigned Vice Chair of the Eskimo Walrus Commission hereby certify that the foregoing resolution 2016-01 was adopted by a majority vote of the Eskimo Walrus Commission Executive Committee. Passed this 16th day of June 2016 through a telephone poll vote.

Elmer Peetot Jr.