



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING  
320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1726

---

Executive Council of the Central Council  
TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC/14-04

Title: In Opposition to HB77/SB26, In-stream Water Reservations Bill

WHEREAS, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe of more than 29,000 tribal citizens worldwide; and

WHEREAS, customary and traditional (“subsistence”) hunting, fishing, and gathering has defined our way of life since the time of our ancestors and continues to be cultural, spiritual and economic backbone of our tribal citizens. Salmon is a cornerstone species that we harvest and highly depend on; and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient in-stream water flows is important for the continued propagation of salmon and other fish and wildlife species. The Alaska Legislature amended the Alaska Water Use Act in 1980 to ensure that individuals could apply for water reservations to protect salmon and wildlife habitats; and

WHEREAS, HB77/SB26, the In-stream Water Reservations bill, is proposed legislation that will remove the ability of Tribes and individuals to apply for water rights needed to protect salmon and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) argues that removing “person” from the list of those that can apply for water reservations does not preclude an individual or organization from working with a state or federal agency to have them apply for a water reservation for them; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska does not have a government-to-government relationship with Tribes and cannot assure us the state agencies could properly represent our interests to apply for water reservations; and

WHEREAS, HB77/SB26 also limits the ability for the public to be notified and to provide comments on certain development projects by categorizing them under the general permitting requirements; and

WHEREAS, our Tribe would like to have the ability to apply for water rights in the future, should the need arise, and to be able to receive notification on development projects and submit comments;

THEREFORE be it resolved, that the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska strongly opposes HB77/SB26 and hereby requests that the Senate Finance Committee do not support this legislation.

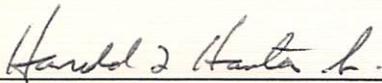
ADOPTED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2014, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 absence.

**CERTIFY**



President Edward K. Thomas

**ATTEST**



Tribal Secretary Harold Houston, Sr