**Resolution No. 2024-02**

**Resolution Opposing Executive Order No. 126 Regarding the Transfer of Functions of the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council to the Department of Natural Resources**

**WHEREAS,** the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) is dedicated to promoting the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of the communities within the Southwest region of Alaska, recognizing the critical importance of Wood-Tikchik State Park as a natural resource, recreational area, and cultural heritage site;

**WHEREAS,** Governor Mike Dunleavy issued Executive Order No. 126 on January 15, 2024, which proposes the transfer of functions and responsibilities of the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council, an entity that provides local and Indigenous input into the management of the park, to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, thereby potentially reducing community and stakeholder involvement in decision-making processes;

**WHEREAS,** the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council has historically played a vital role in ensuring that the management of Wood-Tikchik State Park reflects the values, needs, and traditions of local communities, including Indigenous peoples, while balancing conservation efforts with sustainable use;

**WHEREAS,** the action taken by Executive Order No. 126 to transfer the management functions of the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council may lead to management decisions that do not fully consider the local and cultural contexts, potentially jeopardizing the park's ecological integrity, cultural significance, and recreational value;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) hereby opposes Executive Order No. 126 and requests that the Alaska Legislature convene in a joint session to separately and specifically address and vote down Governor Dunleavy's Executive Order No. 126 related to the transfer of functions of the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council to the Department of Natural Resources.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that SWAMC urges the Alaska Legislature to maintain mechanisms that ensure the participation of local and Indigenous communities in the governance and management of their natural resources, including Wood-Tikchik State Park, promoting principles of stewardship, conservation, and cultural respect in decision-making processes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the Alaska Legislature, the Governor of Alaska, and other relevant stakeholders, to express the collective concern of Southwest Alaska communities regarding the proposed transfer of management functions and to advocate for legislative action to uphold the principles of community engagement, conservation, and sustainable resource management.

Adopted 20-0 March 8th 2024

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy; every member of the Alaska State Legislature ; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.