CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eightieth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 15-17, 2015
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 15-06

Title: Support Government-to-Government Engagement in Recognition in Opposition of the Transboundary Rivers

By: Ketchikan Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federal recognized tribe with nearly 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the transboundary rivers of Northwest British Columbia/Southeast Alaska Region, including the Taku, Unuk and Stikine Rivers are of tremendous and unique ecological cultural, subsistence and recreational value and the clean water and intact habitat of these river systems are some of the most productive wild salmon rivers left on the entire west coast of North America; and

WHEREAS, these rivers and their tributaries are facing significant large-scale development and industrialization including several operating and proposed open- pit mine projects in known acid generating ore bodies along with associated waste rick piles, earthen tailings dams, and roads all threaten the productivity of these rivers of the region through the release of contaminants; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian Federal and Provincial Environmental Review process has been severally weakened and defunded, and has a poor history of enforcement as demonstrated by the continued release of contamination into the Taku River from the Tulsequah Chief Mine; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and protecting healthy wild salmon populations and cultural practice opportunities must be a priority of the Alaska Native Tribes downstream from these mines and must be integral to any decision making occurring in these transboundary watersheds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 15-17, 2015, is united in opposition to these developments and will take the necessary proactive steps to assure that these river systems are protected in their entirety and the values described and the communities dependent on these values are protected; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that action needs to be taken including but not limited to Government to Government engagement with the U.S Federal Government, the State of Alaska, the Canadian Federal Government, the Provincial Government of British Columbia and the Governments of First Nation Peoples to enhance our ability to act as stewards and fulfill our obligations to future generations.

ADOPTED this 16th day of April 2015, by the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

for: Tribal Secretary Jolene Edenshaw