



YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

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Resolution: 2009-06
Trans-Alaska Pipeline Citizen Advisory Council

WHEREAS Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) represents subsistence, commercial and sport fishers from over 40 communities within the U.S. portion of the Yukon River drainage who depend on wild salmon for subsistence and income; and

WHEREAS the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline crosses the Yukon River and its tributaries at several points and a break in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline could result in the rapid disbursement of oil throughout the Yukon River; and

WHEREAS the pipeline is getting old, increasing the risk of a spill and an oil spill in the Yukon River would have catastrophic impacts on Yukon River fish, fisheries and markets, and would cause long-term damage to the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS safe transportation of oil through pipelines requires careful oversight of operations on the part of operators, regulators and regional stakeholders; and

WHEREAS stakeholders and citizens currently have no formal role in oversight of pipeline operations; and

WHEREAS local residents, including subsistence and commercial fishers who depend on the rivers and their resources have the most to lose in the event of a spill and should therefore be formally involved in ensuring the safe operation and continued maintenance of the pipeline; and

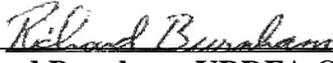
WHEREAS the Regional Citizen Advisory Councils currently provide citizen oversight of oil terminal and oil tanker operations; and

WHEREAS a similar approach of utilizing and funding a Regional Citizen Advisory Council (RCAC) should be utilized to oversee pipeline operations; and therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that YRDFA supports the creation and funding of a Trans-Alaska Pipeline Citizen Advisory Council to provide for pipeline operations environmental oversight and monitoring.

APPROVED unanimously this 6th day of April 2009 by the Board members and Delegates of YRDFA assembled at their Nineteenth Annual Meeting held in Hooper Bay and Fairbanks, Alaska.

Attest:


Richard Burnham, YRDFA Co-Chair


William Alstrom, YRDFA Co-Chair