



ALASKA ESKIMO WHALING COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 570 BARROW, ALASKA 99723

December 20, 2022

Assisaun Toovak, Mayor
City of Utqiagvik
PO Box 629
Utqiagvik, AK. 99723

Dear Mrs. Toovak:

I am writing to you on behalf of the eleven (11) Whaling Villages and Commissioners of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC). The AEWK is a not-for-profit corporation and a federally recognized Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization IRS No. 92-0081760.

As you are aware, the Inupiat and Siberian Yupik Eskimos living in these coastal villages of the Arctic Ocean, Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, have been hunting the bowhead whale for thousands of years. The AEWK was formed in 1977 with a mission of protecting the bowhead whale and its habitat, as well as the aboriginal subsistence traditional hunting rights of Alaska's indigenous people. The whaling communities along the Arctic Coast of Alaska rely on the AEWK to protect the bowhead whale and successfully manage the bowhead whale subsistence hunt. In a continued effort to protect and preserve the subsistence way of life for these whaling communities, AEWK is hosting its 2023 Whaling Captains' Convention and Open Water Season Conflict Avoidance Agreement (CAA) Meeting from January 31-February 4, 2023 in Utqiagvik, Alaska.

In preparation for the financial burden of this event, AEWK is requesting donations to defray the tremendous cost of the convention. This is an event AEWK cannot accomplish without financial support from partners throughout Alaska.

In addition to a possible cash donation, AEWK kindly requests any in-kind donations for use as door prizes, or welcomes an opportunity to have you sponsor breakfasts or lunches during the convention. Your support will help ensure the vital cultural traditions of our communities are continued for generations. We hope your company will consider donating to the 2023 Annual Meeting of AEWK.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact me at (907) 852-2392 or email me at LHopson@awec-alaska.com. You may also contact the Executive Assistant,

Isabell Elavgak at (907) 852-2392 or by email at isabell.elavgak@awc-alaska.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesley Hopson".

Lesley Hopson
Executive Director

cc: AEWK Commissioners