

## **Call for Peaceful Dialogue**

**Chena Ridge Friends Meeting adopted this statement assembled in worship with attention to business, 2013-12-01**

Dear Editor,

We are concerned about the need for public discourse and action to address environmental changes occurring across Alaska. We are concerned because these changes are threatening the safety of our lives, families, and places we love. Melting sea ice and coastal erosion is impacting communities such as Newtok, requiring the difficult challenge of relocating villages. Forest fires are becoming more frequent, resulting in more smoke in the Tanana Valley, which pollutes the air our children breathe. Ocean water is becoming more acidic, threatening the food sources salmon depend on for their survival, thus endangering a food source critical for our subsistence and culture.

We must begin developing solutions to these challenges in order to protect what we love and value. Some solutions will be easy to identify. Others will be more difficult because people have different needs, priorities, and values. Implementing solutions to address these challenges requires communication among our neighbors and elected officials. In Alaska we must work together to avoid losing our fisheries, coastline, and clean air.

Our Quaker faith calls us to address these challenges with integrity and equality. A “Call for Peace and Ecojustice” was adopted by the Sixth World Conference of Friends (Quakers) in Kenya in 2012 ([www.saltandlight2012.org/kabarak-call-peace-ecojustice](http://www.saltandlight2012.org/kabarak-call-peace-ecojustice)). We seek dialogue with other faith communities and concerned citizens who affirm the calling to be ‘good stewards’ of God’s creation, uniting to begin discussion on how to mitigate damages to our local environment.

Please engage your friends, neighbors and civic leaders in peaceful dialogue about how we may best address these challenging issues affecting our community and our state.

Chena Ridge Friends Meeting (Quakers)