Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

January 27, 2017

House State Affairs Committee
Attn: Representative Kreiss-Tomkins
c/o Representative Westlake
State Capitol, Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Kreiss-Tomkins,

As Mayor of Anchorage, I support Representative Westlake's effort to create an Indigenous Peoples Day as an annual day of honor for Alaska's first peoples. My administration is proud to have designated the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day, and we appreciate that Representative Westlake is endeavoring to make that an annual tradition on the state level.

As Alaska's "biggest village," with more than 23,000 Native Alaskans calling Anchorage home, the Municipality of Anchorage recognizes the important role that Alaska Native communities and traditions have in our city's identity.

Representative Westlake's Indigenous Peoples Day legislation will encourage all Alaskans to support this annual celebration and remind all of us about the strength of Alaska's roots, and the values to guide us toward our future.

Regards,

Ethan Berkowitz