ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGE
CEO ASSOCIATION

January 23, 2015

Representative Charisse Millett
716 W. 4th Ave, Suite 620
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Representative Millett,

On behalf of the Alaska Native Village CEO Association, I write in support of House Joint Resolution No. 6 that was introduced January 21, 2015.

Pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), the federal government conveyed Alaska Native Corporations land that had been contaminated by the federal government or from activities allowed or overseen by the federal government prior to their conveyance under ANCSA. During the 1990s, Congress recognized that contaminated lands were being conveyed to Alaska Native Corporations pursuant to ANCSA. Section 103 of Public Law 104-42 (codified at 43 U.S.C. 1629f) required the Secretary of the Interior to provide a detailed report on contaminants on lands prior to their conveyance to Alaska Native Corporations.

In December 1998, the Department of the Interior submitted a report to Congress which estimated approximately 650 contaminated sites were on lands conveyed pursuant to ANCSA. Alaska Native Corporations, as the landowners, are subject to liability under federal and Alaska State law for contamination on their lands. The State of Alaska has instituted several enforcement actions against Alaska Native Corporations for the cleanup of ANCSA conveyed lands which had been contaminated prior to their conveyance. Alaska Native Corporations have incurred considerable expense in cleaning up contaminated sites, negotiating land exchanges and/or battling with the federal and state government to clean up sites on a case-by-case basis. In recognition of this problem, Congressman Don Young stated, "it was clearly not the intention of ANCSA to extinguish Native claims by conveying contaminated property to recipients."

ANVCA requests that the Alaska State Legislature to urge the President of the United States and the United States Congress to take the actions necessary to remediate and make free of the contamination and environmental pollutants lands in the state conveyed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

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If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss the issue, you may reach me at (907)771-8205 or email at ndr@kuskowkim.com. We appreciate your time and consideration on this matter.

Nichola Ruedy
ANVCA, Acting Executive Director

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