

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor*

January 25, 2012

Honorable Senator Donald C. Olson  
Alaska State Legislature  
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 508  
Juneau, AK 99801

Subj: Senate Bill 130 – Alaska Native Language & Advisory Council

Honorable Senator Olson,

It is with pleasure and hope that I write this letter of support for Senate Bill 130 Alaska Native Language & Advisory Council: *"An Act establishing in the Office of the Governor an advisory council for the preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native Languages."*

The issue of preserving, restoring, and revitalizing Alaska Native Languages (ANLs) is of significant importance to my administration and to the people of the North Slope. This was true when the North Slope Borough (NSB) was incorporated in 1972 and has an even greater urgency today since we know far too few of our population is able to speak our language.

Senate Bill 130 seeks to establish a state-level task force within the Office of the Governor to assess our ANLs and to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. At the regional level, over 30 years ago, the NSB established through ordinance the Inupiat Heritage, Language and Culture (IHLC) Commission. Within our local government, this group is tasked with duties similar to those of this proposed commission as it relates to our Inupiaq language. Most recently this local commission focused on the issue of language preservation through the active participation in the development, creation, and now distribution of the North Slope Inupiaq version of Rosetta Stone language software. The Rosetta Stone project is an example of just one of many efforts of the NSB and IHLC Commission to preserve, restore and revitalize our Inupiaq language. While we are certain it is an important step in the right direction, we know there is much work ahead in the future for the North Slope and the state.

It is because of this that we give our highest possible recommendation of support of this Bill and urge the State Legislature to do the same. If we expect to succeed in the significant and challenging cause for our Alaska Native languages we must have a strong and unified effort at every level, local to state. Thank you for your consideration of our comments and recommendation of support.

Sincerely,

  
Charlotte E. Brower  
NSB Mayor