Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council

February 3, 2014

To Whom this may concern

The Alaska Native Language Preservation & Advisory Council supports House Bill 216 recognizing all Alaska Native languages as official languages.

As the authority representing all Alaska Native languages, we strongly urge you to continue to work with members of this council, Legislature, Governor and partner with organizations across the state to pass HB216 to help revitalize Alaska Native languages.

This is a critical time for Alaska Native languages and their continued survival. The Alaska Native Language Center has identified 20 indigenous languages spoken in Alaska. Nearly all of the twenty languages are listed as critically or severely endangered by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO Endangered Languages listing, and two Alaska Native languages are listed as vulnerable.

Recognition and revitalization of Native languages adds richness to our state's heritage and culture. We seek your support for Alaska Native language preservation and revitalization, and commend your efforts.

Thank you for your service to Alaskans.

Sincerely,

ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE PRESERVATION AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Annette Evans Smith, Chair

Sen. Donald Olson
(*Inupiaq*)

Rep. Benjamin Nageak
(*Iñupiaq*)

Annette Evans Smith, Chair
(*Athabascan, Alutiiq, Yup'ik*)

April Counceller,
Vice-Chair (*Alutiiq*)

Delores Churchill (*Haida*)

Bernadette Yaayuk
Alvanna-Stimpfle (*Inupiaq*)

Walkie Charles
(*Yup'ik*)

The mission of the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council is to advocate for the survival and revitalization of Alaska Native languages through collaboration and sharing for all.

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