



Alaska State Legislature
House Finance Committee
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Testimony
of
ANCSA Regional Association
by
Kim Reitmeier, President
on
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My name is Kim Reitmeier, President of the ANCSA Regional Association. The ANCSA Regional Association's membership includes the CEOs of the 12 land-based regional Alaska Native Corporations. Our corporations are owned by over 100,000 Alaska Native people and were formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Our mission is to collaborate in creation of a sustainable socioeconomic future for Alaska Native people.

I would like to thank Co-Chair, Rep Bill Stoltze for extending a personal invitation to our Regional Corporations to participate today. You've heard from of our Regional Corporations this afternoon; unfortunately, many of our CEOs are traveling today, and extend their regards for not being able to participate in this very important legislative discussion.

On March 28th the ANCSA Regional Association issued a press release calling for a robust oil and gas industry with a stable tax regime. Tax reform for the oil and gas industry that truly results in increased production will give communities across the state access to important economic opportunities. We can't stress enough the importance of new and increased production with long-term benefits to Alaskans. We hope that the final bill will benefit all Alaskans, including our rural residents.

Our membership recognizes the importance of a robust oil and gas industry for our state, and for our people, to thrive. It's about sustainability – and without it the entire state treasury is in jeopardy. Alaska Natives have lived here for 10,000 years, and we will be here for 10,000 more. A healthy oil and gas industry is vital for all Alaskans. As you go forward, we ask that you be guided by the values of responsibility to our communities and cooperation to sustain our connection to the land; and have tangible results for all of Alaska.

In closing, on behalf of ANCSA Regional Association, I would like to thank you for your leadership on this issue. We appreciate your dedication and work to ensure Alaska's economic future. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.