



January 27, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Support of HB 275 "Indigenous Peoples Day"

Tanana Chiefs Conference is a non-profit tribal health and social service consortium representing the tribal communities of interior Alaska. Tanana Chiefs was established over 100 years ago when the Native leaders of the time unified to address the needs of the tribes. In 1915, the federal representatives and newspapers were surprised of our chiefs' intelligence and diplomacy¹ as they advocated for the priorities of our people. One-hundred years later, as our cultures have proved resilient and our leaders and tribal members continue to contribute to the State of Alaska, it is important the State pursue a formal day to recognize the achievements of the Indigenous.

We believe this day should be the second-Monday of October in order to provide a learning opportunity for Alaskans and especially the youth to discuss the impacts of historical trauma and successes of Native people. Too often Alaskans fail to be educated on history or governance which prohibits advancement within our state.

Again, we appreciate the consideration of this bill. We believe the bill will create invaluable awareness and educational opportunities.

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Victor Joseph
President and CEO

SUBREGIONS

Upper Kuskokwin

- McGrath
- Medfra
- Nikola
- Takotna

Lower Yukon

- Anvik
- Grayling
- Holy Cross
- Shageluk

Upper Tanana

- Dot Lake
- Eagle
- Healy Lake
- Northway
- Tanacross
- Tetlin
- Tok

Yukon Flats

- Arctic Village
- Beaver
- Birch Creek
- Canyon Village
- Chalkyitsik
- Circle
- Fort Yukon
- Venetie

Yukon Koyukuk

- Galena
- Huslia
- Kaltag
- Koyukuk
- Nulato
- Ruby

Yukon Tanana

- Alatna
- Allakaket
- Evansville
- Fairbanks
- Hughes
- Lake Minchumina
- Manley Hot
- Springs
- Minto
- Nenana
- Rampart
- Stevens Village
- Tanana

¹ Alaska Citizen (Fairbanks), July 12, 1915.