

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.