February 24, 2016

Senator Bill Wielechowski State Capitol, Room 419 Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Bill Wielechowski,

My name is Pasert Lee, president of the Hmong Alaska Community, Inc., and I support Senate Bill 194. As a veteran myself, I am deeply moved by the bill. This bill will give proper recognition to the men who served this country during the Vietnam War. The Hmong/Lao soldiers stood strong next to the American soldiers and fought hard. Many men gave their lives to protect the American people.

The Hmong/Lao veterans earned their title as true veterans that fought for this country. As of 2014, there was an estimated 6,000 veterans residing in the United States and about 22 veterans living in Alaska. This recognition on driver's licenses and identification cards will serve as a lifetime appreciation for Hmong/Lao veterans. DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, will serve as the ultimate form of documentation showing that each veteran completed their time in the military just like any other American veteran. Hmong/Lao veterans have waited a long time to be recognized in a professional and highly respected way.

Thank you again honoring Hmong/Lao veterans. My email is <u>pasertlee@gmail.com</u> if you have any questions or need additional information. Feel free to contact me anytime.

Thank You,

Pasert Lee

President, Hmong Alaska Community, Inc