

February 3, 2017

Senator Gary Stevens  
Alaska State Capital  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Re: SB7 - Museum Construction Grants**

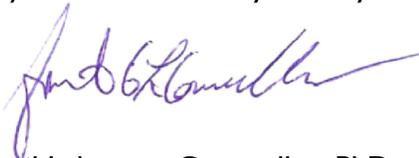
Dear Senator Stevens,

On behalf of the Alutiiq Museum, I am writing to share our enthusiastic support for SB7—the Museum Construction Grant Program. We are thrilled with your proposal to establish matching grants for museum capital projects through the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

From a broad perspective, we believe that this legislation will have an invaluable impact on the long-term preservation of Alaska cultures and history. In our large, diverse state, museums play a central role in making the past accessible to the present. Yet, this role carries the solemn responsibilities to provide exceptional care for collections and to make them publically accessible. Good facilities are at the heart of this work. Capital grants for facilities development will allow collecting institutions to upgrade and improve their repositories and insure the best possible care of our collective heritage.

For the Alutiiq Museum, this legislation is particularly timely. As you may know, the museum has outgrown its 5,000 square foot facility. The process of returning our ancestor's collections to Kodiak, conducting research, and accepting historic materials from our community, has filled our collections storage. Moreover, the success of our programs has increased our staff. A building once designed to hold four staff members will soon be home to ten! We have spread into the Alutiiq Center basement to accommodate this growth, but this is a short-term solution. Our long-range strategic goals is to develop a larger facility. A matching grant program from the State of Alaska would be a key piece of our funding strategy, and help us to secure significant funds from foundations, private investors, and community members to advance our work.

*Quyanaa* – We thank you for your leadership,



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REPOSITORY

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