



Native Village of Afognak

*To embrace, protect, develop, and enhance Alutiiq culture, protect our traditional use areas
and encourage unity among the Alutiiq of the Kodiak Archipelago*

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Gary Stevens
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stevens:

The Native Village of Afognak strongly urges the Alaska Legislature approve Senate Bill 8 to allow Alaska Tribes to be eligible for the Pick.Click.Give program.

Pick.Click.Give was created in 2008 to allow Alaskans filing for their PFD online to donate all or part of it to the campuses of the University of Alaska, community foundations, and eligible charitable and educational organizations. It is a safe and secure way to give and as of December 2014, nearly \$11 million has been contributed through this program.

Pick.Click.Give is currently reserved for 501c3 non-profits. While Tribes are considered tax-exempt organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible donations (IRC section 7871 and being listed in Revenue Procedure 2008-55) they don't meet the current designation to participate in the Pick.Click.Give.

There are 229 federally recognized Tribes in Alaska that offer a variety of services to their tribal members and residents of their villages. Often times these Tribes are the largest and sometimes the sole service providers in many of Alaska's villages. Most Tribes offer services and activities specifically designed for the betterment of their community, activities that are generally geared toward youth development, low-income families, the elderly and victims of violence. Having the ability to be listed under Pick.Click.Give would make it easier for Tribes to access local contributions and would better help to educate the greater public on the importance of the programs Tribe's offer our people.

The Native Village of Afognak fully endorses the passage of Senate Bill 8, recognizing that Tribes deserve and need the same opportunities for charitable contributions through the Pick.Click.Give campaign as 501c3 non-profits receive.

Sincerely,


Melissa Borton
Tribal Administrator