

# Alaska Regional Coalition

*Representing 100 Communities*

February 3, 2017

Dear Senators,

The Alaska Regional Coalition strongly supports the passage of House Bill 78, Indigenous Peoples Day. The indigenous people of Alaska are an integral part of the spiritual, cultural, and historic fabric of Alaska. A yearly day of celebration recognizes not only the history of Alaska Native people, but our current contributions to art, culture, policy, knowledge, traditions and achievement.

The point of Indigenous Peoples Day is not to erase Columbus from the history books or collective memory, but to change the conversation to talk about his impact on present-day Indigenous communities as part of the healing process. Through these conversations we become better global citizens who are aware of the struggles and the experiences of other people and our collective past.

As cities across the nation embrace the second Monday of October as a day to reflect on indigenous heritage and resiliency, it makes sense that Alaska, the state with the largest number of federally recognized Tribes, be among the first to make a permanent proclamation of support for its first citizens.

We urge you to support HB78.

Sincerely,



Central Council of the Tlingit Haida  
Indian Tribes of Alaska



Kawerak, Inc.



Tanana Chiefs Conference



Chugachmiut



Maniilaq Association



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

