

## Patrick Courtnage

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**From:** LIO Sitka  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 6, 2018 9:26 AM  
**To:** Rep. Justin Parish  
**Cc:** House Community and Regional Affairs  
**Subject:** Written Testimony on HCR19 for the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

Dear Chairman Parish and the entire House Community and Regional Affairs Committee ,  
Please accept this written public testimony for distribution to the committee from Sitka constituent Libby Stortz [libbystortz@gci.net](mailto:libbystortz@gci.net) as submitted to the Sitka LIO. Thank you! Ken Fate, Sitka's Legislative Officer

1) Alaska Native languages: Dear committee members, I would like to add my voice of support for defining Alaska Native languages as a linguistic emergency. Years of attempted annihilation of the use of Alaska Native languages and assimilation have resulted in far fewer Native language speakers in Alaska. There are fewer speakers and for many of them, it has taken a very long time to remove the yoke of educational and cultural shaming they experienced throughout their youth, to give themselves permission to share their knowledge. The generation with the greatest linguistic knowledge and skill are aged and dying out without having had sufficient time and support to pass their traditional knowledge and languages to the younger generations. Please give support to this linguistic emergency.

Thank you,  
Libby Stortz  
Sitka