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DOYON
Foundation

March 6, 2018

Committee Chair
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Capitol Room 124
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Concurrent Resolution 19, urging Governor Bill Walker to issue an administrative order declaring a linguistic emergency for Alaska Native languages

Dear Chairman Parish and members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

Greetings. Doyon Foundation would like to lend our voice in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 19. We concur with the sponsors of this resolution that an emergency situation exists for Alaska Native languages. There are ten languages in the Doyon region, half of all 20 Alaska Native languages in the state.

Benhti Kokhut'ana Kenaga (Lower Tanana)
Dihthaad Xt'een Iin Aandëg' (Tanacross)
Dinak'i (Upper Kuskokwim)
Dinjii Zhuh K'yaa (Gwich'in)
Deg Xinag
Denaakk'e (Koyukon)
Hän
Holikachuk
Inupiaq
Nee'aanëegn' (Upper Tanana)

Through the work of our language revitalization program, we see firsthand how each of these languages are greatly endangered. In the majority of these languages, one can identify each of the speakers by first name only. We see a great need for substantial changes in order to open the door for the survival of Alaska's precious first languages. Some of the supports that could make a crucial difference are funding for immersion schools & programs, the formation of an Alaska Native Language School Board, high school graduation standards that include basic proficiency, and statements of commitment such as HR19.

Na basee', Dogidinh, Basee', Tsen'anh, Hai', Mähsi' Xasagidaghisidhoot, Tsin'ee, Tsin'ee and Quyanaq for your commitment to Alaska Native languages.

Adak'ohtii, take care.

Doris Miller
Executive Director

Allan Hayton
Language Revitalization Program Director