



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

SOUTHEAST REGION

PO Box 111071

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Main: 907.465.4563

April 9, 2019

Representative Geran Tarr
Representative John Lincoln
Co-Chairs, House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

To the Co-chairs and Members of the House Resources Committee;

House Bill 122, sponsored by Representative Hannan and co-sponsored by Representatives Edgmon, Kriess-Tomkins, Ortiz, Story, Tuck, Spohnholz, and Zulkosky, would expand the boundaries of the Funtier Bay State Marine Park in Southeast Alaska to encompass the Funtier Bay Unangax Cemetery parcel.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation wishes to go on record as supporting this legislation. We would be pleased to accept management responsibility for this site, which is so important to the history of our state, and to the culture and memory of the Aleut people.

The Southeast Regional Alaska State Parks staff has been working with many organizations and individuals for a way to provide better management and protection of this significant historic cultural resource.

It has been a privilege to coordinate and work with the diverse group of knowledgeable and enthusiastic people, agencies and organizations working hard to further protect this site, and to help inform Alaskans about the importance of the cemetery and the hardships imposed on the Aleut people of St. Paul and St. George islands in Funtier Bay during World War II.

Alaska State Parks is honored at the opportunity to be entrusted to manage this parcel as part of the Funtier Bay State Marine Park, and would be glad to answer any questions from you or your committee on this legislation.

Yours very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricky Gease".

Ricky Gease
Director, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation



Friends of Admiralty Island

P.O. Box 20791

Juneau, AK 99802

Ph/fax (907)586-6738

admiralty_friends@yahoo.com

**Hose resources Committee
Alaska Legislature
4/13/2019**

Letter in support of HB 122

Friends of Admiralty Island has long advocated for the protection of this Unangax cemetery, which this bill helps assure.

This essential protection is the first step in preserving the story of the forced and inhumane relocation to Funter Bay of the Pribilof residents of St. Paul and St. George during WWII.

Including the cemetery in the Funter Bay Marine Park, a key element of the bill provides a path for preserving on site the retelling of this tragic story. With passage of this bill the State Park system has the opportunity, even obligation to develop culturally appropriate educational material that honors the strength and sacrifices of the Unangax people.

Friends of Admiralty has pledged financial help to aid in the documentation and telling of this vital history.

Friends of Admiralty is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the educational, scientific, cultural, and wilderness values of the Island. We were formed in 1997 and have some 350 members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.J. Monteith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

For, Daniel Monteith

President, Friends of Admiralty



With Spirit and Strength

April 15, 2019

Members of the House Resources Committee
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Support of House Bill No. 122: An Act Relating to Protection of Funtner Bay Unangax Cemetery

Dear Honorable Members of the House Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill No. 122, an "An Act relating to the Funtner Bay marine park unit of the state park system; relating to protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funtner Bay and providing for the amendment of the management plan for the Funtner Bay marine park unit."

The mission of Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association includes strengthening and preserving Unangax cultural heritage. The forced removal of about 850 Unangax/Aleut people from our region by the United States military and the placing of these people in abandoned canneries without basic facilities where about 10% of the people died in what has been appropriately termed wrongful deaths is an important part of Unangax/Aleut history. Thus, we appreciate Representative Sara Hannan proposing the bill, we appreciate the members of the House Resources Committee considering this bill, and we strongly support the passage of House Bill No. 122 to protect the Funtner Bay Unangax cemetery.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (907) 276-2700 or dimitrip@apiai.org.

Regards,

Dimitri Philemonof
President/CEO



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

May 6, 2019

House Resource Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for House Bill 122

Dear Honorable Members of the House Resource Committee:

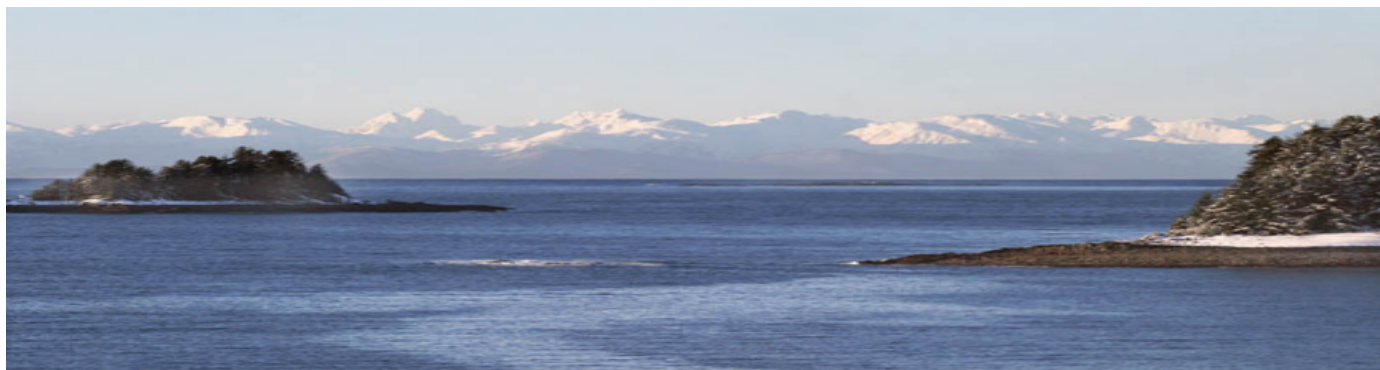
The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribal government representing over 31,000 citizens. We are a sovereign entity and have a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

Tlingit & Haida writes in support of House Bill (H.B.) 122 for the expansion of the boundaries for the Funter Bay State Park to include the Funter Bay Unangax Cemetery. The objective of this bill is in alignment with Southeast Alaska's traditional tribal values, many of which are held in common with other indigenous people in Alaska.

The forced removal of the Unangax people and wrongful deaths that occurred as a result of their removal is a crucial part of the traumatic history endured by many of Alaska's indigenous peoples. The protection of the Funter Bay Unangax Cemetery is the very least that can be done to honor the Unangax people and others who lost their lives during this dark time in Alaska's history. Tlingit & Haida strongly supports H.B. 122.

Gunalchéesh / Haw'aa,

Richard Chalyee Éesh Peterson
President



Juneau Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

**400 Willoughby Ave., Suite 500
Juneau, AK 99801**

Photo by A. W. Hanger

Rep. Geran Tarr
Rep. John Lincoln
Co-Chairs, House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau AK, 99801

Members of the House Resources Committee,

The Juneau Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) is writing in support of the Funter Bay Unangax Cemetery parcel as part of Funter Bay State Marine Park, as it is sponsored by Representative Hannan and co-sponsors; Speaker Edgmon, Representatives Story, Tuck, Zulkosky, Ortiz, Kriess-Tomkins and Sponholz in HB 122.

The Juneau Area State Parks CAB supports Alaska State Parks taking on the role to protect, manage, and inform about the importance of the cemetery and the events suffered by the St. Paul Island and St. George Island Aleut people in Funter Bay during World War II.

Thank you for this opportunity to protect this significant historical cultural resource for the Aleut community.

Respectfully,

Rory Darling
Christy Gentemann
Ric Iannolino
Deb Rudis
Amy Ryder
Forest Wagner
Mareta Weed



114 W. 4th Street, Juneau, AK 99801
907-586-3572 – Beth.Weigel@juneau.org

April 12, 2019

Dear Members of the House Resources Committee,

As Director of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, a department within the City and Borough of Juneau, I am writing in support of HB 122, "An Act relating to the Funter Bay marine park unit of the state park system; relating to protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funter Bay and providing for the amendment of the management plan for the Funter Bay marine park unit; and providing for an effective date."

At the beginning of 2019, a group formed to work on several initiatives related to the forced removal and internment of the Aleut people to Funter Bay and other camps during World War II. This evolving work group is made up of people affiliated with a wide range of organizations and interests from the Aleutian Pribolof Islands Association, the Alaska State Parks and the Alaska State Parks Citizen Advisory Board, the Museum of the Aleutians, the Friends of Admiralty Island, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, the Juneau Public Libraries, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government, the University of Alaska Southeast, Tlingit Haida Central Council, Sealaska Heritage Institute, and a representative from the offices' of Senator Kiehl, Representative Hannan, and Representative Story. The group is both advisory and actively working on three initiatives which are to:

- establish protections in perpetuity around Aleut gravesites that are located on Tlingit Aaní on Admiralty Island and is currently managed by the State Department of Natural Resources;
- develop and install interpretive panels at the cemetery site and for use locally for educational and outreach purposes through State Parks and;
- mount an exhibit on the Aleut Internment at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum in summer 2020.

While the working group has gained momentum this year to bring these initiatives to bear, this work has been decades in the making. Since the US Government removed the Aleut people "for their safety" and interned them in Funter Bay in 1942, these loyal Americans who experienced the death of their loved ones due primarily to deplorable living conditions, and the loss of their traditional homes and culture have sought reparations and to have their story and voices heard. Now more than 75 years later, you, the members of the House Resources Committee and the Legislature at large, have the opportunity to say this place, these gravesites, this story matters. With the passage of HB 122 the Aleut people and their descendants can seek healing, build a stronger community, and restore dignity and respect for those who are buried at Funter Bay.

As written by Alaska Native Brotherhood Grand President, Roy Peratrovich, at the time of internment, "It is our patriotic duty to offer every aid and comfort to these our fellow countrymen..."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth A. Weigel", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Beth A. Weigel, PhD
Director, Juneau-Douglas City Museum