



February 5, 2020

The Honorable Chuck Kopp  
Alaska State Representative District 24  
Capitol Bldg, Rm 216  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**RE: Sitka Tribe of Alaska Support for House Bill 221 - "An Act providing for state recognition of federally recognized tribes; and providing for an effective date"**

Dear Representative Kopp:

Sitka Tribe of Alaska is a federally recognized tribal government located in Sitka Alaska with approximately 4,400 enrolled citizens. I am writing to express appreciation that you have introduced House Bill 221, which will provide State recognition for federally recognized Tribes with with an immediate effective date.

Sitka Tribe of Alaska is pleased to see you have acknowledged the need for this recognition with HB221. Tribes have been in existence in Alaska from time immemorial, and as you know, formal recognition by the State of Alaska of this existence (by passage of your bill) has been a long time coming. Though State recognition isn't needed for tribes to exist and thrive, that acknowledgement will help in the relationships the State has with tribes in Alaska.

Once again, thank you, Representative Kopp. After passage of this important bill, we would encourage legislators to work with the governor to establish an executive order mandating the State government agencies consult with tribes in areas that impact tribes. Please keep us apprised of the status of this as it moves forward. Should it pass, STA would love to be present as it is signed by the governor.

Sincerely,

KathyHope Erickson  
Chairman