



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

February 7, 2020

Representative Kopp
Alaska State Capitol Rm 13
Juneau, AK 99801
Rep.chuck.kopp@akleg.gov

RE: HB 221 – An Act Providing for State Recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes

On behalf of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida), I write in strong support of HB 221 – An Act Providing for State Recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes. Tlingit & Haida is the largest tribe in Alaska, with over 31,000 enrolled Tribal Citizens.

Alaska Tribes have been active partners with the state to address many issues in our communities – from public safety to temporary assistance for needy families to natural resources. This bill (HB221) will show that the state formally recognizes our inherent authority to serve our citizens and further strengthen that partnership.

Alaska is home to 229 federally recognized Tribes. This is a formal trust relationship between the federal government and tribal governments that is repeatedly upheld by US Supreme Court. Through this government to government relationship, Alaska Tribes are able to administer highly sophisticated programs through contracts and compacts and to truly exercise their inherent sovereignty.

Again, I write in strong support of HB 221 – State Recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes. Gunalchéesh/ Háw'aa, thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me at: rpeterson@ccthita-nsn.gov or (800)344-1432.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Peterson,
President