

To the Transportation Committee,

I, Joel Isaak, testified in support of HB 208 renaming college road to Alan Boraas road. I am in support of this bill the way it is was introduced. In my testimony I gave on February 6th, 2020. I was asked about including Dena'ina on the sign. I am a strong advocate for using indigenous languages as much as possible. I would like to explain why I support leaving the sign with only Alan's English name. I had time to speak with the University about including Dena'ina in the proposed language and below are the reasons why I chose not to before HB 208 was filed.

Indeed, it is rare for a non-native person to be granted honorary Tribal member status in Kenaitze Indian Tribe. Dr. Boraas worked for decades with the Tribe and very closely with Peter Kalifornsky. Peter gave Alan Boraas a Dena'ina name. Alan was very proud of his Dena'ina name, however did not use it as in everyday communication. This is why. One part of naming culture in Dena'ina is that we have several names. There is a name given at birth, a name that elders or those close to you bestow upon you, and a commonly used "nick-name".

The birth name and the elder given name are not regularly used. They are deeply person and used only by those you trust, it is a personal connection to who you are. The Anthropology lab is being named the Alan Boraas Tiq'utsex Anthropology Lab which is fitting because it is a strong personal space that Alan spent a lot of time, a work home if you will. It is a fitting place to have his Dena'ina name used.

The road sign in stark contrast is a public sign that anyone friend or not will see. So, it is appropriate that it would not include his more personal Dena'ina name. As I mentioned in my verbal testimony, Alan Boraas and Peter Kalifornsky were very close friends and having an intersection of roads named after these to strong important men would be a very appreciated statement for our community.

Chiqinik, chin'an



Joel Isaak

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