

Chairman
Richard Peterson



ALASKA TRIBAL UNITY

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Executive Director
Will Mayo



February 21, 2020

Representative Harriet Drummond, Co-Chair
Representative Sara Hannan, Co-Chair
House Community & Regional Affairs
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Co-Chairs,

The Alaska Tribal Unity (ATU) supports HB 221 *An Act providing for state recognition of federally recognized tribes*, in which the State of Alaska legislature is seeking to recognize Alaska Native tribes through State statute.

The Alaska Tribal Unity was established in November 2016 as an assembly of tribes for the purpose of developing a unified voice to advocate on important issues that affect Alaska tribes. The mission of Alaska Tribal Unity is to develop a tribal alliance committed to enhancing and protecting sovereignty, self determination, and quality of life for Alaska Natives through advocacy with a unified voice.

Tribes are the traditional governing nations of the Indigenous people of Alaska and enjoy a robust federal relationship with the U.S. government. Historically, the State of Alaska ignored federal preemptive law regarding the status of Alaska Tribes. In 1999, the Alaska Supreme Court case *John v. Baker* ruled that federal recognition of tribes in Alaska exists. SB 221 will further affirm through statute the state recognition of the 229 federally recognized tribes in Alaska.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Mayo".

Will Mayo
Executive Director

