



Senate Labor & Commerce Committee Members

Delbert J. Rexford, President/ Chief Executive Officer

February 8, 2021

Senate Bill 24 Support Statement Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman & Committee Members,

For the record my name is Delbert J. Rexford, President/ Chief Executive Officer of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. I represent over 3,000 Inupiat Shareholders of Record, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 24 "An Act authorizing virtual meetings of shareholders of a corporation; and authorizing virtual meetings of members of a nonprofit corporation."

As Alaska's largest village corporation, Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation, fully supports the passage of Senate Bill 24. We experienced delays and cancellations of our customary face to face 2020 Annual Shareholders Meeting with difficulties and increased legal expenditures, nearly doubling our costs to conduct an annual meeting of our shareholders in 2020 due to COVID-19 federal, state and local hunker down and mandatory quarantine declarations. We support authorizing virtual meetings of shareholders of non-profit and for-profit corporations making this ability to meet virtually permanent in the state of Alaska. This legislation will allow our corporation and all other Alaska Native Corporations across our great State of Alaska to plan our shareholder annual meetings effectively, especially at a time when viruses of pandemic proportions restrict planning due to unforeseen hardships such as the Covid-19 Outbreak. Please consider immediate

passage of Senate Bill 24 legislation to allow corporations to meet virtually. On behalf of those we serve as elected officials we fully support in the very strongest sense of the word the passage of Senate Bill 24. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Delbert J. Rexford, President/CEO
Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation
PO Box 890
Barrow, Alaska 99723
Main: 907-852-4460
www.uicalaska.com

Staff Contact: Julia Kim, Julia.kim@uicalaska.com, (907) 852-7392



300 Alimaq Drive
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Office: (907) 486-6014
Fax: (907) 486-2514

January 29, 2021

Senator David Wilson
State Capitol Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801

SENT VIA EMAIL

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 24, "An Act authorizing virtual meetings of shareholders of a corporation; and authorizing virtual meetings of members of a nonprofit corporation."

Dear Senator Wilson:

Thank you so much for sponsoring and pre-filing Senate Bill 24 (SB 24), especially given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the potential danger of gathering in person with Elders and those with underlying health conditions. Thank you also for considering adding an effective date to the text of the legislation to ensure it would take effect as soon as it is signed by the Governor.

Afognak Native Corporation is an Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) formed under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and through the 1977 merger of two Alaska Native village corporations: Natives of Afognak, Inc. and Port Lions Native Corporation. Afognak represents and serves over 1,200 Shareholders who are descended from the Village of Afognak. As an ANC, Afognak is committed to meeting its economic, social, and cultural obligations to its Shareholders. As you know, one of those responsibilities is to host an Annual Meeting of Shareholders. We successfully hosted a Virtual Annual Meeting last year in order to protect the health of our Shareholders and abide by the State's public health mandates limited in-person gathering at that time.

Our 2021 Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for May 15th, however we are concerned that it may not yet be safe to host an in-person gathering at that time. As it typically takes 120 days to adequately plan for an Annual Meeting in order to abide by Board candidate disclosure, proxy rules, and other regulations, we are hopeful that legislation such as SB 24 will create the ability to plan for a Virtual Annual Meeting until it is safe to gather in person.

We understand that the Governor has been issuing 30-day extensions of the COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order, yet as we note above, the 30-day period does not allow sufficient time to plan for an Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malia Villegas".

Dr. Malia Villegas
Senior Vice President of Community Investments
Afognak Native Corporation



February 5, 2021

Senator Mia Costello, Chair
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Room 119, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 24

Dear Senator Costello:

The Alaska REALTORS® is the voice for real estate in Alaska. We service over 1,750 of the nearly 3000 licensees statewide. We are writing to express our support of Senate Bill 24 introduced by Senator David Wilson. Last year during the Second Session of the 31st Legislature, we worked with the Legislature and Administration to include language in SB241 allowing non-profit corporations the ability to continue to meet through electronic means in accordance with the adopted By-Laws. [Chapter 10 SLA 20, page 10, sec. 12(C), lines 14 – 17].

(c) Notwithstanding AS 10.20.061 - 10.20.076, a meeting of the members of a nonprofit corporation organized under AS 10.20, including meeting notice and determination of a quorum, may be held by telecommunication to the extent the corporation's board adopts or amends bylaws to allow for an electronic meeting.

This provision proved to be extremely important for Alaska REALTORS® in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, allowing us the ability to conduct business. Had it not been in place our members would have been faced with (1) cancelling our annual meeting, or (2) requiring 10% of our membership, nearly 200 members, to travel from across the state to congregate together in order to conduct business. Although we appreciate the Legislature's inclusion of this language this authorization unfortunately was only temporary and sunset November 15, 2020 when the legislation and Governor's Public Health Emergency Declaration expired. While the Governor has issued subsequent Public Health Emergency Health Disaster Declarations every 30 days since November 15, 2020, including extension of this provision, it still remains temporary in nature.

The Alaska REALTORS® have continuously been on record in support of this needed operating procedure to provide our 1,750 members better access and the opportunity to participate in the business of the association. We are in support of SB24 to enact permanent authorization and urge its passage by the full Legislature.

Sincerely,

Errol Champion, Chair
Legislative Issues Committee



3800 Centerpoint Drive
Suite 502
Anchorage, AK 99503

February 16, 2021

The Honorable David Wilson
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wilson:

Koniag is a regional Alaska Native Corporation formed from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The Koniag region encompasses the Kodiak Island area and a portion of the Alaska Peninsula. Koniag has over 4,200 Shareholders of Alutiiq descent.

Koniag supports SB 24, Virtual Meetings for Corporations. Koniag's annual meeting is in early October and our 2020 virtual annual meeting was a success. Although we are hoping we can gather our Shareholders again this October for our annual meeting, it is far from certain. In 2020, the legislature's passage of SB 241 gave us adequate notice of the availability of a virtual annual meeting and we were able to incorporate information about the virtual annual meeting in our proxy materials along with a provision that should the state of emergency be withdrawn, we could possibly have an in-person annual meeting. For Koniag, planning for our annual meeting begins approximately four months prior to the annual meeting, which includes identifying the venue for the annual meeting; securing the venue and catering; mailing of proxies and annual reports to Shareholders, etc. Knowing well in advance that a virtual annual meeting was possible was very helpful in our planning, particularly since all our previous annual meetings were in-person.

While our annual meeting is in the Fall, there are many corporations with annual meetings in the Spring. Given that we are still experiencing the pandemic and large gatherings of people is discouraged, Koniag believes continuing to provide the opportunity for virtual annual meetings is appropriate and urgent. Given the urgency, we suggest a friendly amendment for the inclusion of an immediate effective date in SB 24. Assuming speedy passage of this bill, an immediate effective date would alleviate any issues with a period without availability of virtual annual meetings between the expiration of the state of emergency and effective date of SB 24.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Koniag's Regional and Legislative Affairs Executive, Tom Panamaroff (tom@koniag.com) should you have any questions regarding our position.

Sincerely,

Shauna Hegna
President

koniag.com

P (907) 561-2668

F (907) 562-5258



February 24, 2021

**Board of Directors
Chair**

Nathan McCowan
President/CEO St.
George Tanaq Corp.

TO: Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

RE: Support for SB 24
[Sent via email]

Vice-Chair

Jana Turvey
President/CEO
Lesnoi

Honorable members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee:

The Alaska Native Village Corporation Association (ANVCA) represents the 177 remaining Alaska Native Village and Urban Corporations created under The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). These organizations – created by Congress – represent over 130,000 Alaska Native People and their families.

Treasurer

Chuck Totemoff
President/CEO
Chenega Corporation

We write to you in support of **SB. 24**, a bill that extends Alaska Corporations ability to hold virtual annual meetings in times of uncertainty. The Governor's Emergency order allowing virtual meetings has expired, and we need a solution sooner rather than later.

Secretary

Nancy Andrew
CEO
St Mary's Native Corp.

Without the ability to properly plan for virtual meetings, our members are left wondering how they will ensure the safety of their shareholders during a global pandemic and meetings it obligations for in-person annual meetings under State law.

ANVCA supports **SB 24** and its extension of the option to hold virtual meetings, it is vital that this legislation gets passed in this year, as uncertainty continues to surround us.

Board Members

Melissa Kookesh
Chairwoman
Kootznoowoo Inc.

We look forward to working with your staff and the committee to remedy this issue.

Cameron Poindexter
President/CEO
Choggiung Inc.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Shockley
President/CEO
Bean Ridge Native Corp.

Hallie L. Bissett
Executive Director

Dena Sommer-Pedebone
President/CEO
Gana-A'Yoo Ltd.

ANVCA is a 501 (c) 6 nonprofit organization.
Our federal tax id is: 26-1698277

Anne Thomas
President
Chitina Native Corp.



ANCSA REGIONAL
ASSOCIATION

February 16, 2021

Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

Senator Mia Costello, Chair
Senator Roger Holland, Vice Chair
Senator Joshua Revak
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

Re: ANCSA Regional Association supports Senate Bill 24

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the twelve Alaska Native regional corporations, the ANCSA Regional Association (ARA) wishes to enter its support into the record for Senate Bill 24.

Senate Bill 24 is an uncontroversial measure that will permit virtual meetings of shareholders of a corporation or members of a nonprofit. SB 241 of the 31st legislature and subsequent emergency orders had previously allowed these meetings to take place, and many corporations and organizations have already taken advantage of this flexibility.

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our society in almost every way, and our businesses have not been immune. The Alaska Native regional corporations and many subsidiaries or affiliated organizations have often had to find new ways to conduct business, and virtual meetings have been a key area of innovation.

As the pandemic is still far from over, virtual meetings will continue to be a necessity for the near future. Presently, Alaska is one of only nine states that require annual and special shareholder meetings to be in-person. It's time for us to join the vast majority of states that permit corporations to hold in-person, hybrid, or virtual meetings.

Virtual meetings have offered important flexibility to our members, and have resulted in unique growth and opportunities that may not have been possible before. In this sense, COVID-19 many very well have kick-started a new form of business and non-profit governance, and we believe that there are many advantages to be gained from retaining this flexibility into the future.

Thank you for reviewing this crucial bill, and please keep our testimony in mind when discussing its provisions. SB24 should be passed and provided an effective date as soon as possible, to maximize flexibility for corporations and organizations across the state.

ARA represents the presidents and chief executive officers of the twelve land-based Alaska Native regional corporations that were created pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA). ARA's member corporations are owned by over 135,000 Alaska Native shareholders. Our purpose is to promote and foster the continued growth and economic strength of Alaska Native corporations on behalf of their Alaska Native shareholders and communities.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Reitmeier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Reitmeier, Executive Director
ANCSA Regional Association



February 16, 2021

Senator Mia Costello
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 119
Juneau AK, 99801

Sent via email to: Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Costello,

This letter is written on behalf of Doyon, Limited as a statement of support for SB24, "An Act authorizing virtual meetings of shareholders of a corporation; and authorizing virtual meetings of members of a nonprofit corporation."

Doyon's mission is to continually enhance its position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social well-being of its shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen its Native way of life, and to protect and enhance its land and resources. Doyon has over 20,000 shareholders, with the large majority living here in Alaska (about 75%), but among our Alaska-based shareholders, we can be found in live-in rural communities across the Doyon region, we can be found in Anchorage, and others are found here in Fairbanks.

For over a decade, Doyon has allowed web-based viewership of our Annual Meeting of Shareholders, and they were able to join over the internet with the 500-600 shareholders participating in person. In 2020, Doyon held our first fully virtual meeting, held lawfully under the Governor's emergency orders. Going forward, SB 24 will allow more of our shareholders to attend our annual meeting with a permanent transition to virtual meeting or a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting, reflecting and allowing for new forums and changes in technology.

Through passage of this bill, "Virtual Meetings for Corporations," our fellow Alaskans, and Alaska Native shareholders, will continue to participate via virtual meeting as a result of this bill, which truly reflects a permanent change in our lives, brought on through transformative technology.

This bill will ensure Doyon's position as a strong Native corporation that improves social outcomes by increasing our shareholder participation, this improves outreach and helps maintain the continuity of our corporation in these uncertain times. Through the bill Doyon will continue to meet state legal and regulatory requirements and meet Doyon's bylaw requirement of holding Annual meetings of shareholders, or convene special meetings of shareholders as needed.

Virtual meetings for corporations would ensure that all businesses are able to conduct all legal requirements seamlessly as SB 241 emergency orders that had extended the COVID-19 public health disaster declaration recently expired. Senate Bill 24 would ensure critical business matters

are taken care of in times of crisis when in person meetings are not possible as experienced with the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Doyon, Limited endorses SB24, an act that authorizes virtual meetings of shareholders of a corporation and authorizes virtual meetings of members of a nonprofit corporation. Again, thank you for the work you are doing on behalf of all Alaskans. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (907) 459-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah E. Obed".

Sarah E. Obed
Senior VP, External Affairs
Doyon, Limited