



April 21, 2021

The Honorable Andi Story
Alaska State House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Story,

Old Harbor is a coastal community located at the Southeast Coast of Kodiak Island, 70 air miles southwest of the City of Kodiak and 322 air miles southwest of Anchorage, Alaska. The Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor and Old Harbor Native Corporation work together to preserve and protect the culture, values and traditions of its community and to work together to create economic and educational opportunities while promoting self-determination and pride.

The Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor (ATOH) and **Old Harbor Native Corporation (OHNC)** supports **House Bill 47, “An Act renaming the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council as the Council for Alaska Native Languages; and relating to the Council for Alaska Native Languages.”** At the request of the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council to change its name to the “Council of Alaska Native Languages”, Alaskan policymakers would broaden its current mission. Through this expansion, our first Alaskans would centralize their focus on preservation, restoration, and revitalization of Alaska Native languages per AS 44.33.520.

Additionally, HB 47 would increase membership of the Council from 5 to 7 members in recognition of our diverse people. All reasonable and sensible changes given there are at least 20 different Alaska Native languages among our people.

ATOH and OHNC strongly encourages the 32nd Alaska State Legislature to take action and pass this legislation in the current legislature. We appreciate your steadfast leadership on this legislation and encourage the membership to make this proposal law.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns to Cynthia Berns, Vice President, at cberns@oldharbor.org or 907.278.6100.

Quyanna – Thank you,

ALUTIIQ TRIBE OF OLD HARBOR

Alfred Cratty
President

OLD HARBOR NATIVE CORPORATION

Carl H. Marrs
Chief Executive Officer