



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
MAYOR DAVE BRONSON

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 14, 2022

Senator Mike Shower (Committee Chairman)
Senator Lora Reinbold
Senator Roger Holland
Senator Mia Costello
Senator Scott Kawasaki
Representative Tiffany Zulkowsky (Sponsor)

Subject: Support for HB 123 "An Act Providing for State Acknowledgement of Federally Recognized Tribes."

Dear Senator Shower and members of the State Affairs Committee,

As Mayor of Alaska's largest city, I support the proposed intent of House Bill 123. Acknowledgment is not a waiver or relinquishment of jurisdiction by the Municipality of Anchorage. Property ownership by Tribes is a land guarantee between each Tribe and the United States Federal Government and is not in jurisdictional conflict with the Municipality of Anchorage.

It is essential to highlight that the US Constitution recognizes four sovereigns: the Federal Government, States, Tribes, and Individuals. HB 123 acknowledges the long-term, unbroken occupancy of Alaska by its indigenous people.

I believe it is time that our local and State governments acknowledge facts. One of them is the Federal recognition of Tribes, a status that has existed for many of Alaska's Tribes since before statehood. I support and encourage intergovernmental relations with Tribes and recognize the special and unique relationship that the United States government has with Tribes. Acknowledgment does not diminish the United States government's trust responsibility or other obligations to Tribes, nor does it create a concurrent trust relationship between the State or Municipality and federally recognized Tribes.

In closing, I fully support HB 123 because it is one step toward building trust, it opens doors for improved working relationships, and it shows the great respect we have between our non-tribal community, the State, and Tribes.

Respectfully,

Dave Bronson, Mayor
Municipality of Anchorage