



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
PO Box 25500 • Juneau, Alaska 99801

February 15, 2022

Representative Patkotak
House Resources Committee, Chair
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 120 State Land Sales and Leases

Representative Patkotak and Members of the House Resources Committee

On behalf of Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida), I am writing regards HB 120 State Land Sales and Leases and encourage you to pass this bill from the House Resources Committee. Governor Dunleavy included an amendment to this bill that would fix an injustice against the Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans, offering a chance to fulfill federally promised land allotment with stand land near traditional homelands.

This legislation would resolve the issue of Southeast Alaska Vietnam Veterans not being allowed to select their land allotments in their traditional homelands. We believe that our veterans who were overseas serving our country during the passage of ANCSA in 1971 deserve the right to their Native allotment.

Southeast has the highest rate of veterans per capita, proudly serving our country. It is past time that we right this issue for our servicemen. Tlingit & Haida offers our staff to testify as need, as well as organizing Southeast Vietnam Veterans to testify.

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa, Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Peterson,
President