

March 30, 2026

Senator Löki Tobin  
State Capitol Room 115  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Tobin,

I am writing to you today to express my support for continued funding and support of the Alaska Native Language Center and the Alaska Native Language Archive at UAF.

NILI was founded in 1997 by a group of elders, apprentices, and administrators from language and education programs from tribes across Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. We create and consult with communities on teacher training, language pedagogy, materials and curriculum development, assessment, language documentation, policy, applied linguistics, and educational technology. We were founded, in part, to help address the major gap that exists in terms of support and education for Indigenous language teaching in the PNW as well as in the nation. In 2023, we were awarded the Northwest Native American Language Resource Center (NW-NALRC) grant, which brings Alaska formerly into our service area.

In the last few weeks, we have heard that the ANLC and ANLA have been facing significant financial and logistical support deficits. Here at NILI and the NW-NALRC, we find this most concerning, as the ANLC and ANLA serve as a fundamental pillar of Alaskan Native language resource access and support. Anything less than a fully-funded and staffed ANLC and ANLA presents a dire risk to the continued survival of AN languages. Further, the ANLC and ANLA must retain full and independent operational control, as their mission and operation differ from that of UAF and the College of Indigenous Studies.

I strongly urge you to fully fund and support the ANLC and ANLA. Their mission is unique and represents the obligation and responsibility that UAF and the State of Alaska have to Alaskan Natives.

Sincerely,



Robert Elliott  
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