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April 29, 2026

House Resources Committee c/o Co-Chair Representative Dibert
Alaska State Capitol, Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

Sent electronically to House.Resources@akleg.gov and Rep.Maxine.Dibert@akleg.gov

Re: Support for HJR 44

Dear House Resources Committee:

On behalf of Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC), the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act regional corporation representing 12,000+ Alaksa Native shareholders with present-day or ancestral ties to the Bristol Bay region, I urge the Committee to support the passage of HJR44, a resolution affirming continued ANC participation in the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 8(a) Business Development Program. Passage of this resolution will send a clear and timely message to policymakers in Washington who question the program: Alaska is united in support of the 8(a) program and its significant benefits for our state, communities, people, and the federal government.

The 8(a) program is rooted in the unique relationship between Alaska Native people and the federal government, codified in ANCSA and the Small Business Act. While ANCSA created ANCs and conveyed lands for the benefits of our Alaksa Native shareholders, many of these were landlocked or difficult to access or develop, restricting their economic utility. The 8(a) program offsets these constraints and empowers ANCs to develop private sector solutions to national challenges and strengthen local economies in Alaska.

Federal contracting success by ANC-owned and other tribally owned businesses has transformed us into economic engines that power the state's economy. In 2022, ANCs generated \$13.5 billion in total revenue and reinvested \$2.8 billion in wages, goods and services, shareholder distributions, charitable giving, education, and taxes in Alaska alone. That activity supported 8,270 direct jobs and 15,470 induced jobs in our state, accounting for 6% of all jobs and 7% of all wages paid in Alaska.

ANC revenue secured through 8(a) federal contracts also supports our communities' social wellbeing. Since 1971, ANCs have awarded more than 81,000 scholarships and over \$173.9 million in scholarship funding, as well as \$17.3 million in elder benefits to more than 10,800 elders.

Importantly, ANCs' collective contracting achievements – and the benefits derived from participation in the 8(a) program – are not preference without performance. We have established ourselves as highly specialized, capable, and qualified partners to the federal government that streamline procurement processes while delivering robust benefits to the state and our shareholders. Through the 8(a) program, ANCs can reduce federal procurement times by as much as 85%, putting mission-critical capabilities into the field in weeks, rather than months. Contracts are renewed because of delivery success, not because of designation.

WWW.BBNC.NET

Proposed changes to the 8(a) program would create serious economic consequences for Alaska, while reducing the federal government's efficacy and efficiency. Overlooked in this policy conversation are ANCs' robust compliance track record and the significant benefits provided by the program to Alaska and the nation. If adopted, these regulatory shifts would deal a serious blow to Alaska Native self-determination and our state's economy.

BBNC and its 12,000+ shareholders encourage you to stand with us, Governor Dunleavy, our congressional delegation, and the state's business community to protect this program. ANC participation in the 8(a) program is grounded in federal law, and it continues to follow Congress' intent by advancing Alaska Native self-determination and economic development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Metrokin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being more prominent.

Jason Metrokin
President & CEO