ALASKA FEDERATION
OF NATIVES

December 20, 2013

Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

As you know, we lost a much respected elder last spring when Katie John passed away. Katie lived a traditional lifestyle and fought for decades to be able to pass that way of life on to her children and grandchildren. Preserving our cultures and access to food is extremely important to Alaska's Native people. When Katie was told that she couldn't live the lifestyle she grew up living, she became the lead plaintiff in a series of lawsuits that wound through the state and federal court systems. Sadly, that fight continues even though she has passed on.

At our annual convention in October, The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) not only honored her throughout the convention, we passed a resolution requesting the State of Alaska to declare May 31 to be "Katie John Day." The resolution is attached for your reference.

As she is an important Alaska Native leader, we hope you will take this request to heart. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie E. Kitka

Julie Kitka
President

cc: Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors
State of Alaska House Leadership
State of Alaska Senate Leadership
Rep. Bryce Edgmon, Bush Caucus

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