



Representative Bryce Edgmon
Co-Chair
Representative DeLena Johnson
Co-Chair
Representative Neal Foster
Co-Chair
House Finance Committee Members

Sent via email

To Co-Chairs Edgmon, Johnson, Foster and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Subject: Native Peoples Action (NPA) opposes HB 83: Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA) in its current form.

NPA is a non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening Alaska Native peoples and our Ways of Life - also known as "subsistence" but we do not believe that the term fully encompasses what it means to our people currently and from our tens of thousands of years of stewardship. We are committed to addressing and restoring our people's inherent rights to hunt, fish, harvest, gather, trap, share, and have ceremonies, as well as manage and steward our homelands for abundance once again. We do this work by being a statewide advocate alongside our Native peoples amplifying their work, voices, and leadership, and advancing our collective priorities to fully practice, restore, and strengthen our Alaska Native hunting, fishing, gathering, harvesting, trapping, sharing, and ceremonial rights as Native peoples.

While we appreciate the sentiment of CACFA being established to communicate views of Alaska citizens regarding implementation of ANILCA, and serve as an impartial and independent source of information, unfortunately, the makeup of the commission doesn't reflect that with tribal and Alaska Native voices. With a tribal voice being absent, it is not reflective of CACFA's future advocacy efforts.

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Both Alaska Natives and federally qualified subsistence users have a complex system to navigate in order to provide for their families with sustenance and cultural connection - in addition to litigation and conflicts between the state and federal government. We encourage the committee to amend the current makeup of CACFA to include rural, federally qualified subsistence users who are most impacted are represented on this commission.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Quyana/Thank you,

Jackie Arnaciar Boyer
Deputy Director
Native Peoples Action