



ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAN

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October 21, 2015

Ms. Shelly Wright
Southeast Conference
PO Box 21989
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Shelly,

Subject: Alaska Regional Development Organization Reauthorization

The Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) is a federally-recognized Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act. OVK is *"committed to promoting, preserving, and protecting indigenous Haida identity and values. For our elders and youth, we look to the future in unity, by developing economic opportunities, promoting education, and utilizing our cultural, natural, and social resources."*

This letter is to provide support for the reauthorization of the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program. The work that the ARDORs provide through this program offers great benefit to the state and has been a crucial component in Alaska's efforts to diversify and grow the economy since it was created in 1988.

Southeast Conference has worked very diligently on the goal of successfully supporting regional economic development organizations and communities, tribes and other entities to grow and strengthen local economies.

By leveraging relatively modest investments by the state, the ARDORs have been able to match the funds by almost three to one. They have then utilized this funding to do a range of important projects across the state, which has improved the local economies and driven economic development efforts statewide.

The Organized Village of Kasaan is committed to promoting, preserving, and protecting indigenous Haida identity and values. For our elders and youth, we look to the future in unity, by developing economic opportunities, promoting education, and utilizing our cultural, natural, and social resources.

a federally recognized tribe

OVK is proud to support the ARDOR's efforts to make Alaska a better place to live, work and play. We believe that this type of statewide, collaborative economic development effort is exactly what Alaska needs, especially at this time.

OVK supports the ARDOR reauthorization at its current funding level. This program is not only a good use of state dollars, but also an excellent resource for the state and private sector! Thank you for your continued support for a better economy for southeast Alaska.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald Leighton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald Leighton
Tribal President