

# Tanana Chiefs Conference

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Via Email: [Senator\\_Donny\\_Olson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us)

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Senate State Affairs Committee Members, via individual email

## RE: Support for CS/SB 130 – “An Act establishing an Alaska Native Language and Advisory Council.”

Dear Senator Olsen,

From its beginning of time, the truest picture and the deepest thoughts and feelings of this great land have been woven into the words of Alaska's indigenous people and their languages. A part of this Great Land's heart and mind and soul is lost forever, whenever one of Alaska's Native languages dies.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference views CS for SB 130 as a humble but important beginning of a process and partnership that brings Alaskans together to build a permanent legacy that will enrich the future of all Alaskans.

For many years, the Athabascan tribes of the Interior, along with other tribes and local, regional and state-wide organizations and educational institutions throughout Alaska have strongly encouraged the state to partner with them in supporting their efforts to preserve, restore and revitalize one of Alaska's most unique and cherished legacies - its Native languages.

Over the years, issues relating to Alaska Native language preservation, restoration and revitalization have been raised and approached by a patchwork of programs and projects. Numerous tribes, organizations and educational institutions have expended a considerable amount of time and resources to study and address issues related to Alaska's Native languages, and numerous Native language-related bills have been introduced in the legislature.

CS/SB 130 establishes a process to bring together collective and representative knowledge and experience that can provide guidance to state and tribal leadership regarding a more coordinated strategy to preserve, restore and revitalize Alaska's Native languages.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference most strongly supports the spirit and intent of CS for SB 130. We deeply appreciate your willingness to sponsor the bill, and encourage all members of the legislature to support its passage during this session.

Tsen`ii (Thank you)

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

*Jerry Isaac*  
Jerry Isaac, President/Chairman