



April 4, 2012

Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Senator Albert Kookesh  
Senator Joe Paskavan  
Senator Cathy Giessel

**RE: OPPOSITION TO APPOINTMENT OF DR. DAVID EICHLER TO APOC**

Dear State Affairs Committee:

I write on behalf of Sealaska Corporation, representing over 21,000 Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian shareholders, to state opposition to the appointment of Dr. David Eichler to the Alaska Public Office Commission.

In recent years, Dr. Eichler has made comments about the Alaska Native population that are derogatory, misinformed, and hurtful. In email exchanges and public blogs regarding the Dental Therapist Program in rural Alaska, Dr. Eichler has claimed Natives are "free from personal responsibility" for their dental hygiene; that eliminating federal funding for dental programs will "allow [American Indian and Native] integration into American society as dignified citizens"; and, relating to tooth decay, "any culture that allows such disease will disappear and rightfully so."

Sealaska strives to foster relationships of cooperation and understanding to find solutions to the many issues facing Alaska Natives. This is in alignment with our core Alaska Native value of *Wooch.Yax*, representing balance, reciprocity and respect. It is critical that we work together to bridge the gaps in understanding between cultures, not make them wider. It is an affront to the Alaska Native population that an individual with a record of public commentary so insulting and dismissive of an entire culture would be considered for government appointment.

Please share this letter to any extent that it might discourage others from supporting Dr. David Eichler to represent the people of the State of Alaska on the Alaska Public Office Commission.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosita *Kahaani* Worl, Board Vice Chair  
SEALASKA CORPORATION

cc: Alaska Federation of Natives, Julie Kitka  
Sealaska Board of Directors  
Governor Sean Parnell