



February 27, 2014

Representative Bob Herron:

Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) writes this letter on behalf and in support of the residents of the Bristol Bay region and individuals of other rural communities who have been inadvertently and adversely impacted by the current autopsy and death certificate law. BBNC supports the changes proposed in Alaska Senate Bill 161 and House Bill 301, Autopsies and Death Certificates.

The proposed bill SB 161/HB 301 makes minor changes to Alaska law which will have a huge impact, reduce confusion, limit costs, and expedite the current autopsy and death certificate issuance. In addition, it will reduce the stress and grief caused to many families who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

Families should be given the option to transport their deceased loved ones back to the family's home for burial rather than back to the place of death, so long as the family pays the difference in the cost – this bill corrects that oversight.

The bill allows death certificates to be issued in-region if the transport of the deceased to Anchorage is not required. Why not use existing medical facilities if available in rural Alaska? This bill provides flexibility and is forward looking.

Bristol Bay Native Corporation strongly supports SB 161/HB 301 and thanks you for sponsoring this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Ferguson", is written over the printed name.

April Ferguson
Sr. VP & General Counsel
Bristol Bay Native Corporation