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Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you to show my support of Senate Bill 105.

I have been working with Native allotments for eight and a half years. According to a BLM document received there are about 301 pending Native allotments throughout Alaska. Forty three valid Aguilar allotments are located within the boundaries of the Bristol Bay service provider area.

This means BBNA LMS works with the applicants and or heirs with the BIA, BLM and the DNR in an attempt to obtain title to the land. BLM will determine whether or not land is to be found valid under the provisions of Aguilar; BLM will request DNR return the land to BLM. The state will then follow its generalized land conveyance policy before the valid Aguilar allotment can be conveyed.

Please note this process can be very lengthy and requires the Native allotment applicant or heirs to be in agreement. In my experience several of the valid Aguilar Native allotment applicants and/or their heirs die before a certificate is ever issued.

A compelling case in our region is the case of John Alexie who is 83 years old. The applicant while waiting for the title to the land died. The heirs have done everything the DNR has asked but DNR ended up declining to recognize the valid Aguilar allotment. Senate Bill 105 will assist valid Aguilar allotments be returned to BLM which will assist Native allotment applicants who have been waiting for sometimes 80 years to receive title to the land for which they applied for.

Once again I'd like to thank Senator Coghill for supporting this bill and this committee for hearing me.