

Freddie Olin

From: April Counciller <aprilcounciller@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 11:36 AM
To: Freddie Olin; [REDACTED]
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Subject: HB 216 Written Testimony

Cama'i Mr. Olin,

I am writing to provide written testimony related to HB 216, the Official Languages Bill. I am a member of the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council, who have also provided a letter of support to this Bill. I am a faculty member of the University of Alaska Anchorage, Kodiak College campus, where I teach Alutiiq Language and Culture. Regionally, I am a founding organizer of the Qik'rtarmiut Alutiit (Alutiiq People of the Island) Regional Language Advisory Committee and the Alutiiq Language Club.

Most personally, I would like to write in support of this Bill as an individual second-language speaker of my Native language. I have studied Alutiiq for the past 12 years and have reached basic advanced fluency. The survival of our Alaska Native languages is very important to myself, my family, and my community. HB 216 is an incredibly vital symbolic gesture to show the whole state that our Alaska Native languages are a valuable part of our State heritage. This Bill does not require that documents, signs, or public notices be translated into all 21 of the Native languages listed – merely that these languages be acknowledged and celebrated. This sends a message to young people in our state that the languages of all of our Native groups are special and important. This can contribute positively to the various regional efforts to promote and revitalize Alaska Native languages.

Quyanaasinaq for this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Best Wishes,

Isiik April Counciller

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