



Sponsor Statement

CSHJR3(CRA)

More Authority, Responsibility, and Capacity for Alaska Native Tribes to Fight Crime and Deliver Justice at the Local Level

The Committee Substitute for House Joint Resolution 3 declares the Legislature's support for measures Congress can take to address persistent, devastating social strife in our rural communities.

CSHJR3(CRA) endorses the introduction of federal legislation that would create a demonstration project to strengthen the authority, responsibility, and capacity of local tribal governments to administer public safety and justice in their communities. Experts agree that greater control, better defined jurisdiction, and increased accountability at the local level will lead to swifter response to violence and criminal activity, increased crime prevention, and increased rehabilitative, rather than punitive, sentencing models.

Seating more authority with Alaska tribes also has the potential to increase federal funding to augment tribal institutional capacities for the local delivery of justice, which in time will help lessen the burden on state law-enforcement, court-system, and corrections-system resources.