

Alaska Native Studies

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

January 27, 2016

Dear Representative Harriet Drummond:

Please regard this as a letter of highest support for House Bill 275, to establish the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

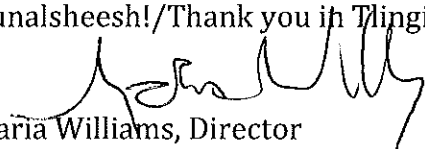
This is a wonderful way to recognize the Indigenous peoples of Alaska and I am so pleased that this House Bill is being introduced. I think the history of our great State reflects the uniqueness of our diversity and this is especially true for our Indigenous Population. Creating an Indigenous Peoples Day will highlight the important history of all Indigenous people, and the economic and social contributions to our state.

Alaska has some wonderful statistics - such as of the 566 Federally Recognized tribes in the US, 229 are in Alaska; Alaska Native K-12 students make up 27% of the overall student population - that means one in four K-12 students in Alaska is Indigenous!

Alaska also can be proud of the historic 1971 Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, which established 12 regional corporations. Today, these regional corporations are the state's number one employer.

Having an Indigenous Peoples Day will be a way to provide information and education on the important roles that Indigenous and Alaska Native people play in our contemporary society.

I wholeheartedly support this Bill!
Gunalsheesh!/Thank you in Tlingit



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