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Sponsor Statement

SENATE BILL 8 – PFD CONTRIBUTIONS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Senate Bill 8 is straightforward legislation to allow federally recognized tribal governments to receive contributions from Permanent Fund Dividends (PFD) through the popular Pick.Click.Give. program.

More than 200 federally recognized tribal governments in Alaska provide a variety of cultural, charitable and social services to their members, communities, low-income families and victims of abuse. Like many nonprofits, financial donations are a key component of their budgets. The addition of federally recognized tribal governments to the Pick.Click.Give. program will allow these entities the same opportunity to raise funds that is currently enjoyed by the University of Alaska system and charitable organizations statewide.

The bill calls for the Department of Revenue to add federally recognized tribal governments to appear on the Pick.Click.Give. eligible recipients list. It also subjects these tribal entities to the same regulations and fees currently applied to the program's participants.

Since 2009, Pick.Click.Give. has made it easier for Alaskans to help hundreds of nonprofits fulfill their missions through direct contributions from their PFDs. This has resulted in millions of dollars to eligible organizations through the years. The addition of federally recognized tribal governments to the list of Pick.Click.Give. recipients will extend the program's reach, while opening up another avenue of fundraising for these important organizations.

I ask for your support of this important legislation.