

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Justin Parish
House Community & Regional Affairs
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HCR 19 – Urging Governor Walker to issue an administrative order recognizing a linguistic emergency.

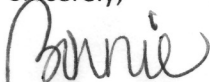
Dear Representative Parish and members of the Community & Regional Affairs:

As an apprentice of Xaad Kil – Haida Language, and a mother and grandmother of Haida children, I am writing to encourage you to support HCR 19. Since I started my journey on learning my native language I found how much I have missed out in knowing and learning my heritage tongue, and my children and grandchildren have been deprived learning their native heritage language. Our language is a beautiful one, as it links us to the environment around us. It teaches respect and reverence. It teaches us about the world and ties us to our families and community.

My mother was sent off to boarding school and there she lost her connection to the language. Therefore, as a child growing up I didn't hear or practice in my home. I learned a little from classes at school but it wasn't enough and we lacked resources and consistency. What I have learned is that it has affected my mother physically and emotionally, and she has had to deal with the loss her entire 70 years. When I speak what little Haida I know to her, it makes her feel good.

I'd like to thank you for your time and ask that you support HCR 19 and ask that you please understand the significance to me, my family and our people and people of Alaska. My heritage language has made a difference in my life. And with your support it will make a difference in Hydaburg, to our children and grand children, and even to those who it was taken from. If you have further questions, you may contact me at P.O. Box 1049, Craig, AK 99921 or eagle_one69@hotmail.com. Ja haw'aa – thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Bonnie R. Morris
Xaad Kil Apprentice