

April 9, 2018



Representative Matt Claman
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol 118
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

via electronic mail to: lizzie.kubitz@akleg.gov

RE: SB 202, HB 367

Dear Representative Claman:

Thank you for hearing SB 202 and HB 367. These bills would amend AS 46.03.822 to clarify that Alaska Native Corporations that received contaminated sites as part of their ANCSA settlement lands are not legally liable for prior contamination that existed at the time of transfer. Koniag, Inc. supports both SB 202 and HB 367.

Koniag, Inc. is one of the twelve regional Alaska Native Corporations formed under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Koniag, Inc. has approximately 3,900 Alutiiq Shareholders. Our region encompasses the Kodiak Archipelago in the Gulf of Alaska and a portion of the Alaska Peninsula. In addition to the hub community of Kodiak, there are six rural communities within our region. Given its strategic location in the Gulf of Alaska, the Kodiak Archipelago experienced a tremendous military build-up in the World War II era that has left many contaminated sites, some that have been conveyed to the region's Native Corporations.

Removing the legal liability of our Alaska Native Corporations for containment, removal or remediation actions on lands that were contaminated prior to conveyance by the federal government is morally correct and assists corporations in the pursuit of potential development of these sites. In addition, the corporations should not have to incur significant costs to "prove" that the land was contaminated prior to conveyance. Amendment One clarifies this addresses this and Koniag urges its adoption.

Amendment Two would be a significant change to current law and we are concerned that it complicates these bills unnecessarily. In addition, the proposed changes in

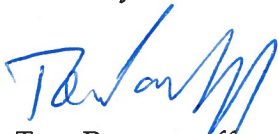
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Rep. Claman
April 9, 2018
Page Two

Amendment Number Three would be rendered moot by the adoption of Amendment One.

Again, thank you for hearing SB 202 and HB 367. Koniag, Inc. urges the Alaska State Legislature to pass one of these pieces of legislation as amended by Amendment One during its 2018 session.

Sincerely,



Tom Panamaroff
Regional & Legislative Affairs Executive

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