



*With Spirit and Strength*

April 15, 2019

Members of the House Resources Committee  
State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**Support of House Bill No. 122: An Act Relating to Protection of Funtner Bay Unangax Cemetery**

Dear Honorable Members of the House Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill No. 122, an "An Act relating to the Funtner Bay marine park unit of the state park system; relating to protection of the social and historical significance of the Unangax cemetery located in Funtner Bay and providing for the amendment of the management plan for the Funtner Bay marine park unit."

The mission of Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association includes strengthening and preserving Unangax cultural heritage. The forced removal of about 850 Unangax/Aleut people from our region by the United States military and the placing of these people in abandoned canneries without basic facilities where about 10% of the people died in what has been appropriately termed wrongful deaths is an important part of Unangax/Aleut history. Thus, we appreciate Representative Sara Hannan proposing the bill, we appreciate the members of the House Resources Committee considering this bill, and we strongly support the passage of House Bill No. 122 to protect the Funtner Bay Unangax cemetery.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (907) 276-2700 or [dimitrip@apiai.org](mailto:dimitrip@apiai.org).

Regards,

Dimitri Philemonof  
President/CEO