

Date: April 13, 2021

Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Zulkosky:

I am writing to express my appreciation for your hard work and sponsorship, as well as express my support of HB-123. I would also like to recognize and show my appreciation to the co-sponsors Representatives Kriess-Tomkins, Drummond, Spohnholz, Fields, Tarr, Ortiz. I hope my letter finds you all and all members of the State Legislature in good health, Thank you for all you do.

#### HB 123 – An Act Providing for State Recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes

As an Alaskan Native who is a member of a Federally Recognized Tribe, I find it archaic and outdated politics that the state where I was born and have lived all my life does not recognize a large portion of my history. Tribes have been apart of the Native Peoples history for many generations.

In the United States of America there are 574 Federally Recognized Tribes, 229 of the Federally Recognized Tribes are within the State of Alaska. 11 States currently recognize 63 of the Federally Recognized Tribes, Those States are: Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Vermont and Virginia. Roughly 40% of the Federally Recognized Tribes call Alaska home yet Alaska is apparently absent from the list, absent from the Acknowledgement of Native Tribes.

Alaskan Tribes have long existed and call Alaska home. Tribal Organizations have long showed support of all people of Alaska by providing such necessities as health care, public safety and education. I feel that recognition would open many opportunities to expand provisions through such medians as Alaskan Tribes abilities to also acquire Federal Funding. A government-to-government recognition and relationship could benefit all of Alaskans. The time has come for the State of Alaska to recognize a large portion of it's people's history, the time has come for the State of Alaska to recognize it's Culture and Traditions, the time has come for the State of Alaska to recognize it's Tribes.

I respectfully yet firmly urge the Alaska Legislature to honor who I am and pass House Bill 123 – “An Act providing for state recognition of federally recognized tribes; and providing for an effective date”

Sincerely,

Olaf O'Domin  
King Salmon, AK