



Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council

19 January 2021

The Honorable Andi Story
House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 403
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Story,

The Alaska Native Language Preservation & Advisory Council strongly supports the passage of HB 47, changing the name of the Council to the *Council for Alaska Native Languages* and increasing the number of voting members from five to *seven*.

The requested name of Council for Alaska Native Languages reduces ambiguities and makes for a more pronounceable acronym. The term "preservation" in language work sometimes has a negative connotation, bringing up images of "fruit preserves" stored in a sealed jar in a pantry closet. On the contrary, the Council works to revitalize the use of all Alaska Native languages as living languages, spoken and heard as widely as possible, and learned and passed on by succeeding generations. The Council is the council for all Alaska Native languages.

The request to increase the number of voting members on the Council comes from repeated requests from Alaska Natives, providing public input to the Council in its public meetings. An increase in the number of voting members will allow the Council more readily to include the perspectives of a broader range of Alaska Natives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "April Counciller".

April Counciller
ANLPAC Chair

Sen. Donald Olson
(Inupiaq)

Rep. Andi Story

April Counciller, Chair
(Alutiiq)

Annette Evans Smith, Vice-Chair
(Athabaskan, Alutiiq, Yup'ik)

Bernadette Yaayuk
Alvanna-Stimpfle (Inupiaq)

Walkie Charles
(Yup'ik)

X'unei Lance Twitchell
(Tlingit/Haida/Yup'ik/Sami)