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January 29, 2021

Senator David Wilson  
State Capitol Room 115  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**Subject: Support for Senate Bill 24, "An Act authorizing virtual meetings of shareholders of a corporation; and authorizing virtual meetings of members of a nonprofit corporation."**

Dear Senator Wilson:

Thank you so much for sponsoring and pre-filing Senate Bill 24 (SB 24), especially given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the potential danger of gathering in person with Elders and those with underlying health conditions. Thank you also for considering adding an effective date to the text of the legislation to ensure it would take effect as soon as it is signed by the Governor.

Afognak Native Corporation is an Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) formed under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and through the 1977 merger of two Alaska Native village corporations: Natives of Afognak, Inc. and Port Lions Native Corporation. Afognak represents and serves over 1,200 Shareholders who are descended from the Village of Afognak. As an ANC, Afognak is committed to meeting its economic, social, and cultural obligations to its Shareholders. As you know, one of those responsibilities is to host an Annual Meeting of Shareholders. We successfully hosted a Virtual Annual Meeting last year in order to protect the health of our Shareholders and abide by the State's public health mandates limited in-person gathering at that time.

Our 2021 Annual Meeting is currently scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>, however we are concerned that it may not yet be safe to host an in-person gathering at that time. As it typically takes 120 days to adequately plan for an Annual Meeting in order to abide by Board candidate disclosure, proxy rules, and other regulations, we are hopeful that legislation such as SB 24 will create the ability to plan for a Virtual Annual Meeting until it is safe to gather in person.

We understand that the Governor has been issuing 30-day extensions of the COVID-19 Outbreak Health Order, yet as we note above, the 30-day period does not allow sufficient time to plan for an Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

Sincerely,

Dr. Malia Villegas  
Senior Vice President of Community Investments  
Afognak Native Corporation