



ANCSA REGIONAL  
ASSOCIATION

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February 16, 2021

Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

Senator Mia Costello, Chair  
Senator Roger Holland, Vice Chair  
Senator Joshua Revak  
Senator Gary Stevens  
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

**Re: ANCSA Regional Association supports Senate Bill 24**

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the twelve Alaska Native regional corporations, the ANCSA Regional Association (ARA) wishes to enter its support into the record for Senate Bill 24.

Senate Bill 24 is an uncontroversial measure that will permit virtual meetings of shareholders of a corporation or members of a nonprofit. SB 241 of the 31<sup>st</sup> legislature and subsequent emergency orders had previously allowed these meetings to take place, and many corporations and organizations have already taken advantage of this flexibility.

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our society in almost every way, and our businesses have not been immune. The Alaska Native regional corporations and many subsidiaries or affiliated organizations have often had to find new ways to conduct business, and virtual meetings have been a key area of innovation.

As the pandemic is still far from over, virtual meetings will continue to be a necessity for the near future. Presently, Alaska is one of only nine states that require annual and special shareholder meetings to be in-person. It's time for us to join the vast majority of states that permit corporations to hold in-person, hybrid, or virtual meetings.

Virtual meetings have offered important flexibility to our members, and have resulted in unique growth and opportunities that may not have been possible before. In this sense, COVID-19 many very well have kick-started a new form of business and non-profit governance, and we believe that there are many advantages to be gained from retaining this flexibility into the future.

Thank you for reviewing this crucial bill, and please keep our testimony in mind when discussing its provisions. SB24 should be passed and provided an effective date as soon as possible, to maximize flexibility for corporations and organizations across the state.

ARA represents the presidents and chief executive officers of the twelve land-based Alaska Native regional corporations that were created pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA). ARA's member corporations are owned by over 135,000 Alaska Native shareholders. Our purpose is to promote and foster the continued growth and economic strength of Alaska Native corporations on behalf of their Alaska Native shareholders and communities.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Reitmeier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Reitmeier, Executive Director  
ANCSA Regional Association