

Alaska Regional Coalition

Representing 100 Communities

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Donny Olson
Senator
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Alaska Regional Coalition SUPPORT for SB81 VPSO Grants

Dear Senator Olson:

As the Alaska Regional Coalition, we write to offer support for SB81 Village Public Safety Officer Grants. Tribes and Tribal Organizations have a vested interest in working with the State to find the best solution to ensuring rural public safety through the VPSO Program – in fact, four of the five signatories on this letter administer the VPSO program in our respective regions.

We support the recommendations from the VPSO working group that helped frame this bill. We stand by as a resource and partner to ensure the success of the VPSO program.

Ana baasee', Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, Quyana, for your work on this important issue.

Respectfully,

PJ Simon, Chief/Chairman
Tanana Chiefs Conference

Melanie Bahnke, President/CEO
Kawerak, Inc.

Tim Gilbert, President/CEO
Maniilaq Assn.

Jan Vanderpool, Executive Director
Chugachmiut

Richard Peterson, President
**Central Council Tlingit & Haida
Indian Tribes of Alaska**

*The **Alaska Regional Coalition** is a consortium of four Alaska Native regional tribal nonprofits and one regional tribe – Tanana Chiefs Conference, Maniilaq, Kawerak, Chugachmiut, and Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. We are all recognized by the U.S. Indian Self-Determination Act to provide medical, behavioral, social, public safety, workforce development, and judicial supports to the State of Alaska through contracts, compacts, and grants. The coalition represents **65,000 Alaskans and 100 communities** from Ketchikan to Kotzebue.*

