



Senator Mike Shower, Chair  
Senator Lora Reinbold, Vice Chair  
Senator Mia Costello  
Senator Roger Holland  
Senator Scott Kawasaki

February 18, 2022

**RE: Support for HB 123 “An Act Providing for State Recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes”**

Dear Senator Shower and Members of the State Affairs Committee:

On behalf of NANA Regional Corporation (“NANA”), I am writing to express our support for HB 123 “An Act Providing for State Recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes.” NANA is one of twelve land-based Alaska Native regional corporations created pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Headquartered in Qikiktagruk (Kotzebue) in northwest Alaska, our region is home to eleven federally recognized Tribes. These Tribes have thrived in their indigenous homelands since time immemorial. NANA values working alongside them as we advance our mission to improve the quality of life for our people by maximizing economic growth, protecting and enhancing our lands and promoting healthy communities with decisions, actions and behaviors inspired by our Iñupiat Iqitqusi values.

HB 123 establishes by statute that the Alaska Legislature recognizes the 229 federally recognized Tribal governments that exist in Alaska. This bill does not change the legal status of Alaska Tribes or established law on Tribal jurisdiction over people, lands, or otherwise. Additionally, it does not alter the State of Alaska’s jurisdiction over the subject matters within the State’s area of responsibility and authority. Rather, it expresses a basic acknowledgement that Tribes exist in Alaska. This acknowledgement is a fundamental first step to productive working relationships between the State of Alaska and federally recognized Tribes in Alaska in the future, which is a positive step forward for all Alaskans.

Quyana – thank you,

  
John Agnaqluk Lincoln  
President/CEO

CC: Representative Josiah Patkotak  
Representative Tiffany Zulkosky