



March 16, 2021

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Honorable Senator Roger Holland
Chair
Alaska Senate Education Committee
State Capitol Room 115
Juneau AK, 99801
Ed.King@akleg.gov

Honorable Senator Gary Stevens
Vice-Chair
Alaska Senate Education Committee
State Capitol Room 103
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: AFN support for the proposed committee substitute to Senate Bill No. 34

Dear Chairman Holland, Vice-Chairman Stevens, and members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I am writing to express our support for the proposed committee substitute for SB 34, "An Act providing for the establishment of public schools through state-tribal compacts" that is before the Alaska Senate Education Committee hearing on Thursday, March 17, 2022.

AFN represents more than 175,000 Alaska Natives, including 141 federally recognized tribes, 158 village for-profit corporations, 10 regional for-profit corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortia. Our mission, among other things, is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community.

I would like to thank Senator Gary Stevens and the members of the Senate Education Committee for the continued work and progress on SB 34. I apologize that I cannot be there in person today. Please accept this letter as our support for the proposed committee substitute to continue the momentum of a transformational approach to education in Alaska. As such, I urge the Senate Education Committee to pass the committee substitute and move SB 34 to the Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee for continued review and fine-tuning.

I appreciate your consideration of our support. I look forward to working with the Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee on the passage of SB 34. Please feel free to contact me at afninfo@nativefederation.org or 907-274-3611 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka
President