



ANCSA REGIONAL  
ASSOCIATION

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March 28, 2023

*Issued electronically*

Dear Members of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Alaska State Legislature:

On behalf of the ANCSA Regional Association (ARA), I would like to express our support for the passage of House Bill 123, introduced by Representative Craig Johnson.

As you know, ARA represents the twelve Alaska Native regional corporations created by Congress under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971. Together, these organizations are tasked with providing for their more than 160,000 Alaska Native shareholders socially, culturally, and economically.

Under current Alaska law, Alaska Native corporations (ANCs) must reach a two-thirds majority of all outstanding shares to enact an amendment to their articles of incorporation, unless certain exceptions apply. However, Alaska corporations formed after July 1, 1989 only require a fifty percent plus one majority of the outstanding shares to approve an articles amendment. The two-thirds majority requirement is an outdated rule that disadvantages ANCs and their shareholders.

The two-thirds majority requirement is a constant hurdle ANCs face when considering these amendments due to gradually declining quorum counts. Quorum counts rarely meet this high threshold, and because of this, ANCs are deprived of opportunities to evolve and advance compared to newer Alaska corporations.

HB 123 would end this unfair, antiquated system and instead place ANCs on a level playing field with Alaska corporations formed after July 1, 1989. Under HB 123, ANCs could amend their articles according to the fifty percent plus one majority standard applicable to Alaska corporations formed after July 1, 1989, under AS 10.06.504(a).

After celebrating 50 years of ANCSA, several ANCs are currently revisiting or considering modernizing their articles of incorporation. Passage of HB 123 is critical and timely.

Thank you for your work on behalf of Alaska and consideration of this legislation. Together we can continue to advocate for a better and more prosperous future for our Alaska Native shareholders and all Alaskans.

Quyanaa,

Kim Reitmeier, President  
ANCSA Regional Association