

# *Senator Lyman Hoffman*

*Room 508, State Capitol  
Phone 465-4453 / Fax 465-4523*



## *Memorandum*

---

Date: January 30, 2024

To: Senator Donald Olson, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Senator Bert Stedman

From: Senator Lyman Hoffman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "LH", written over the name "Senator Lyman Hoffman".

Re: Bill Hearing Request, SB 141

Please consider my request to schedule a hearing for SB 141, "An Act naming the Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge."

Attached are the bill hearing request requirements. Please contact myself or my staff, Sam Greely, if you require additional information or clarification.

Thank you.

# Senator Lyman Hoffman

## *Alaska State Legislature*



### Sponsor Statement

#### SB 141 Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge

Senate Bill 141 renames Bridge 1902, the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge to the Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge.

On March 22 2023, the Aleknagik City Council and the Aleknagik Traditional council adopted a joint resolution 23-02, requesting the Legislature change the name of the Wood River Bridge to the Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge.

Raymond Conquest was born in a little village called Apqa, in the Bethel region. His mother passed when he was a young child. He was raised by an elderly couple and later ended up in the Catholic orphanage at Holy Cross. He ran away at the age of 11 and at age 13 or 14, caught a steamship from Bethel to Dillingham. Raymond was a hard worker and lived in a one-room shack with friends. Later, Raymond was employed as a heavy equipment operator for the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Building Facilities, building a State highway from Dillingham to Aleknagik named the Lake Aleknagik Road. The highway is better known as the Gateway to Wood Tikchik State Park.

Raymond later worked as a caretaker at the Nerka Lodge known as the Second Lake. During that time, he met his wife Esther, who would assist him with caretaking the lodge. Raymond's next venture was in commercial fishing. He purchased the "Ricky T" and shortly after purchase a second boat the "Gypsy". Raymond and Esther would fish full seasons starting in Nushagak and Kwichak, and would later in season transfer to Togiak. Raymond was also an avid hunter and trapper, after the fishing season the two would hunt for moose. In the spring Raymond would snare squirrels. Esther was famous for her parkas and dolls. She was well known in the Bristol Bay Region for her craft.

Esther and Raymond showed kindness and generosity to all. They are remembered for transporting hundreds of people back and forth from Aleknagik to Dillingham. If there was an emergency, it was always the Conquests taking people to the hospital any time of day or night. In the tragic case of a loss of life, the Conquests were there to comfort people and buy groceries for them for weeks in times of need. Raymond was instrumental and played a very big part in getting the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge complete in October 2015. Raymond was quoted as saying "I will fight for that bridge until I die". During the City of Aleknagik 2015 Bridge Ceremony, Raymond was honored by being the first one to cross the bridge in his old blue Chevy truck. Raymond and Esther's presence forever shaped the community of Aleknagik.

Please join me in supporting Senate Bill 141, naming the Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge.

**Senator Lyman Hoffman**  
*Alaska State Legislature*



Sectional Analysis  
SB 141 version B  
"An Act naming the Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge."

**Section 1 AS 35.40.390.**

AS 35.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Sec. 35.40.390. Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge.** Bridge number 1902 over the Wood River between Dillingham and Aleknagik is named the Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR:  
SENATOR JAMES KAUFMAN  
State Capitol Room 115  
STRA@akleg.gov  
(907) 465-4949



MEMBERS:  
Senator David Wilson, Vice Chair  
Senator Jesse Kiehl  
Senator Löki Tobin  
Senator Robb Myers

### **SB 141 Explanation of Changes, Version A to B**

#### **"An Act naming the Raymond and Esther Conquest Bridge."**

**Section 1. Page 1, Line 4:** Corrects the bridge number being designated the Raymond and Easter Conquest Bridge from "1802" to "1902."

**JOINT RESOLUTION**  
**City of Aleknagik**  
**Aleknagik Traditional Council**

**RESOLUTION 23-02**

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCILS OF THE CITY OF ALEKNAGIK AND ALEKNAGIK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING NAMING THE ALEKNAGIK WOOD RIVER BRIDGE IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND AND ESTHER CONQUEST ELDERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF ALEKNAGIK FOR THEIR LONG-STANDING SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR A BRIDGE IN ALEKNAGIK

**WHEREAS,** Aleknagik Traditional Council and the City of Aleknagik executed a Memorandum of Understanding on October 29, 2000 to recognize areas of mutual concern to support, and to establish a framework for cooperative relations and communication for the benefit of the community of Aleknagik as a whole, and it is the desire of the two entities to cooperate concerning legal and political matters inherent in a government to government relationship; and

**WHEREAS,** the Councils of the City of Aleknagik (City), and Aleknagik Traditional Council (Tribe) wishes to recognize in memory Elders Raymond and Esther Conquest for their advocacy and support for the construction of the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge in the community of Aleknagik; and

**WHEREAS,** Raymond and Esther Conquest's vision became a reality in October 2015; and

**WHEREAS,** Raymond and Esther showed their kindness and generosity before the bridge was built and after by transporting many people in need whether emergency to preserve life or general quality of life provisions from Aleknagik to Dillingham or Dillingham to Aleknagik by boat and truck; and

**WHEREAS,** the City and Tribe of Aleknagik wishes to honor their elders by naming the bridge to immortalize these extraordinary Yup'ik elders who endured many hardships as inspirations to present and future Aleknagik residents; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City and Tribe of Aleknagik, Alaska, does hereby support naming the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge in Memoriam of Raymond and Esther Conquest; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City and Tribe of Aleknagik, Alaska will present this to Alaska State Senator Lyman Hoffman upon its passage to submit on our behalf to the Alaska State Legislature as an encouragement for its action in forever naming the Aleknagik Wood River Bridge after Raymond and Esther Conquest.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 22nd day of March 2023 by a duly constituted quorum, of the Councils of the City of Aleknagik and Aleknagik Traditional Council.**

**SIGNED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gusty Ilutsik, Jr., Aleknagik Traditional Council President (Tribe)

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Tinker, Aleknagik Traditional Council, Acting Secretary (Tribe)

**SIGNED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Ilutsik, City of Aleknagik, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amber Webb, City of Aleknagik, Secretary/Treasurer

**JOINT COUNCILS OF CITY OF ALEKNAGIK and  
ALEKNAGIK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING at the Aleknagik School  
March 22, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Bruce Ilutsik called the meeting to order at 4:21 p.m.

**ROLL CALL: City:** Bruce Ilutsik, Amber Webb, Jane Gottschalk, Nina Tinker, William Chythlook-Jones, Kelly Ilutsik, Excused: Vera Andrews. **Tribe:** Randy Tinker, Candace Chythlook, Bruce Ilutsik, Gusty Ilutsik, Sr. Excused: Margie Aloysius, Miriam Olson.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** City Bookkeeper Ramona Andrews, Tribal Administrator Allen Ilutsik, City/Tribe IT Darren Coolidge, City Administrator Kay Andrews, Agnew Beck Consulting: AICPs Tanya Iden and Shanna Zuspan.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Nina Tinker MOVED to APPROVE the agenda, SECONDED by Jane Gottschalk, motion carries unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Nina Tinker MOVED to APPROVE the City and Tribe Joint Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2023, SECONDED by Gusty Ilutsik, Jr., motion carries unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:** Tanya Iden, AICP, Shanna Zuspan, AICP Agnew:Beck Consulting:

**Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting:**

Welcome and Introductions: Consultants presented information on

What is a Comp Plan?

Aleknagik Today

Aleknagik Going Forward

Next Steps

**JOINT RESOLUTION:** Amber Webb MOVED to APPROVE **Joint Resolution 23:02** Naming of the Aleknagik Bridge in Memory of Raymond Conquest, SECONDED by Jane Gottschalk; an amendment was MOVED by Randy Tinker to add Esther Conquest's name (wife) to the naming of the bridge, SECONDED by Nina Tinker; Jane Gottschalk MOVED to APPROVE main motion with amendment to include Esther Conquest's name (wife), SECONDED by Amber Webb, motion carries unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Gusty Ilutsik, Jr. MOVED to APPROVE the Intent to Apply for the 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Announcement Grant Cycle to update the Aleknagik Tribal

Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019-2024) by creating a new Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan with the tribe as the primary applicant through the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Planning, SECONDED by Randy Tinker, motion carries unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. City of Aleknagik, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, March 1973 – 2023  
March 25, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at the Aleknagik School

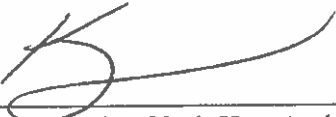
**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Comprehensive Plan Update

**TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:** Work with team leaders to identify the next meeting date and notify councils.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Gusty Ilutsik, Jr. MOVED to ADJOURN at 6:36 p.m., SECONDED by Nina Tinker, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted:

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting City Clerk Kay Andrews

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Bruce Ilutsik