

City of Golovin  
P.O. Box 62059  
Golovin, Alaska  
99762  
Ph: (907) 779-3211  
or 779-3681

March 13, 2024

To the Honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee,

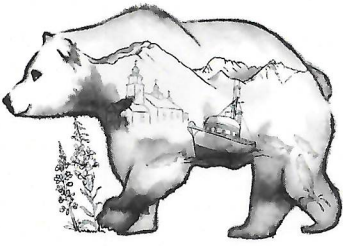
The City of Golovin is in support of House Bill 175 which addresses recycling of electronic scrap in Alaska. For many years, our community has actively collected and sent old electronics, and other materials, out for recycling. Our program is heavily supported by federal funding through the Environmental Protection Agency, but we know that if this funding goes away, our ability to recycle will also go away. At this time, the City of Golovin's landfill uses an incinerator to burn all the residential trash and if we start burning electronics, we understand it will be a huge environmental and human health issue.

Our community has a Class III landfill, which means it is unlined. This reality makes us extremely cognizant of what types of trash we allow into our landfill. We wish to continue recycling and believe that the industry that develops the materials should play a part in disposing of the materials, as with the cradle to grave concept. We hope to see recycling of electronics become a sustainable endeavor by passing House Bill 175, supporting Alaskans in their effort to protect the land, subsistence resources, and human health.

Sincerely,

Sierra Smyth, Mayor

City of Golovin



# ALUTIIQ TRIBE OF OLD HARBOR

PO Box 62, Old Harbor AK 99643  
Phone: (907)286-2215 Fax (907)286-2350  
Website: [Alutiiqtribeoh.org](http://Alutiiqtribeoh.org)

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## SB 175 Electronic Device Recycling Letter of Support

Date: March 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

The Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor would like to offer this letter of support for Senate Bill 175 (SB 175) and the creation of a system that will help our community deal with the growing problem of electronic waste. The Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor is a federally recognized tribe (ATOH) located on Kodiak Island, 70 air miles southwest of the main city of Kodiak. We are a traditional Sugpiaq community that relies on a subsistence lifestyle.

Our community members require access to proper disposal and recycling of e-waste to prevent them from going to the landfill. Currently we have a tagging facility where our community members drop e-waste to be properly packaged and shipped out but at a cost to our community, with the product stewardship it will help make removing these e-waste materials from our community much more manageable. If we don't have a proper disposal or recovery avenue for these e-waste products it can release contaminants into our water and the air, impacting our residents and our subsistence resources.

Alaska needs product stewardship and SB 175 to allow for communities, such as ours, to deal with the electronic waste that has been overwhelming our solid waste programs. Please help us protect our community members and our subsistence lifestyle by passing SB 175.

On behalf of the Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor this letter is in support of SB 175,

Sincerely,

Tribal Chief – Jeff Peterson

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“Old Harbor is a community based in rich traditions that come together to celebrate its people, culture, and heritage. We demonstrate this through our language, arts, traditional dancers and spiritual history and our respect for the Elders and honoring of our children.”



**City of Gustavus**  
P.O. Box 1  
Gustavus, AK 99826  
Phone: (907) 697-2451

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Click Bishop and Cathy Giessel  
Senate Resources Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1185  
Via E-mail: [Senate.Resources@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Resources@akleg.gov)

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 175: Electronic Device Recycling**


Dear Senators Bishop, Giessel, and Honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee,

Gustavus is a small community located off the road system 40 miles west of Juneau, and which also serves as the gateway community for Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

While we have a strong recycling program, our landfill is not built to accept electronics, lacking a liner or leachate system. There is no easy way to recycle electronics like in the Lower 48 and electronic waste is a growing concern because of the expense and limited availability of funds for shipping.

We request your support of SB 175 to help reduce the community health burden faced by rural communities trying to deal with recycling electronics.

Sincerely,

  
Shelley K. Owens  
Mayor, City of Gustavus



March 13, 2024

Honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing this letter to affirm the Copper River Native Association Tribal Health Consortium's (CRNA) support for Senate Bill 175. SB 175 introduces the practice of product stewardship to electronic devices sold in Alaska and creates a manufacturer funded system for collecting and recycling electronic devices. This is really needed in Alaska. Landfills in our communities are unlined and electronics end up in them. Our communities are concerned about contaminants from electronics such as lead, mercury, and cadmium ending up in our land and waterways. The financial burden of transporting electronics for safe recycling/disposal is placed on our communities. A Product Stewardship program in Alaska would reduce that burden. Many other states already have Product Stewardship and it makes sense to have it in Alaska.

CRNA is located in the beautiful Copper River Basin, home of our people, the Ahtna. We are approximately 150 miles east of Anchorage in a region encompassing approximately 23,000 square miles. We deliver a variety of programs and services that promote the wellness of the people who call the Copper River Basin home. We support SB 175 and would like to see it passed – it would help our communities and communities across Alaska.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Sherwood*

Sarah Sherwood  
Environmental Coordinator  
Tribal Community Services  
Copper River Native Association

# *New Koliganek Village Council*

P.O. Box 5057

Koliganek, AK 99576

Phone: 907-596-3434 fax: 907-596-3462

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March 13, 2024

Re: Support for Senate Bill 175

To the Honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee,

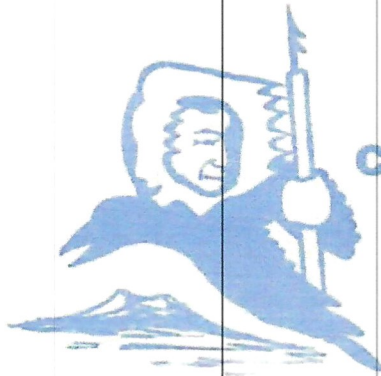
The Native Village of Koliganek would like to offer this letter of support for Senate Bill 175 (SB 175) and the creation of a system that will help our community deal with the growing problem of electronic waste. The Native village of Koliganek is a federally recognized tribe (NKVC) located on the Nushagak River, 65 miles northeast of Dillingham. We are a traditional Yup'ik community that relies on a subsistence lifestyle.

Our community struggles to properly maintain our landfill and to protect the health of our residents and our subsistence resources. We are underfunded and do not have the solid and hazardous waste infrastructure needed to protect our community from emerging contaminants. This is especially true when it comes to electronic waste. We have seen a huge increase in the amount of electronic waste at our landfill, but we have no proper place to store, dispose, or recycle it. Our landfill is unlined, and we burn our waste material, which can release contaminants into our water and the air, impacting our residents and our subsistence resources.

Alaska needs product stewardship and SB 175 to allow for communities, such as ours, to deal with the electronic waste that has been overwhelming our solid waste programs. Please help us protect our community members and our subsistence lifestyle by passing SB 175.

Sincerely,

*Elena Norbert* New Koliganek Village Council Vice President



## CHEFNOK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 110 Chefnak, Alaska 99561  
(907) 867-8850 or (907) 867-2062 Fax (907)867-8711

Date: March 12, 2024

RE: SB175 Support Letter

To Whom It May Concern,

The Chefnak Traditional Council is a federally recognized tribe located at the Yukon Kuskokwim region of coastal southwest Alaska. We have a population of 506 people with a medium household income of \$47,500 with a total of 90 households. Chefnak is only accessible by air or barge, and there is no road system. The Chefnak Traditional Council is writing this support letter for Senate Bill 175 (SB 175) and the creation of a system that will help our tribal community deal with the growing problem of electronic waste.

Our tribal community has an unlined Class III landfill, so we have been trying to find ways to remove electronic waste materials from the landfill and backhaul them to a designated place for proper recycling. We are staying vigilant of what goes into our landfill because we rely on subsistence cultural food. Over the past years, we have been collecting, storing, and applying for funds to backhaul electronic waste to Seattle, WA by barge and it is expensive to do so. Electronic waste does not belong in rural Alaska as it accumulates annually, and relying of federal funds to backhaul them is not a sustainable way to recycle them properly. We did apply and are awarded an EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure Recycling (SWIFR) grant to backhaul materials for 3-years but is not a sustainable way to continue applying for funds especially when those funds are exhausted at end of it's grant year. Therefore, the Chefnak Traditional Council supports Senate Bill 175 and the creation of establishing manufacturers to take care of the end of the life of e-waste.

Alaska needs product stewardship and SB 175. Don't let electronic waste accumulate on rural Alaska's unlined landfills. Help us find a solution on solid waste management for electronic waste and let's keep Alaska beautifully pristine by passing this bill!

Sincerely,

*Alexandra Anderson*

Alexandra Anderson, IGAP Assistant

**From:** [Therese Lewandowski](#)  
**To:** [Senate Resources](#)  
**Subject:** SB 175, Electronic Device Recycling  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 1:35:38 PM

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Hello Resources Committee Members,

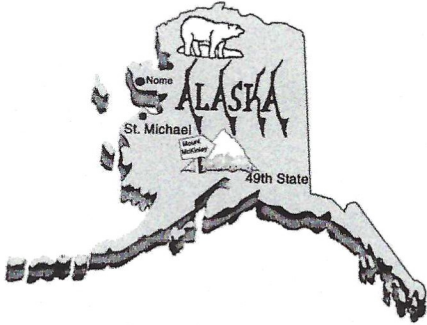
In Homer and Kenai, the Cook Inlet Keeper sponsors an electronic recycling event every spring. I believe they gather tons of stuff. In my home and at the office I work at, I keep in a tote the items that can be recycled for this annual event.

I would very much like to see this bill move forward. It's long to read, involving various aspects of what it would take as well as federal considerations.

I very much like that it includes an advisory council and folks like Cook Inlet Keeper would be good for that having the experience.

I look forward to listening to the hearing and encourage the Committee to pass this forward. It is a huge start in a much-needed state-wide recycling of electronics. Huge thanks to Senator Tobin for sponsoring it.

Sincerely,  
Therese Lewandowski  
District C - 6



# Native Village of Saint Michael

PO Box 59050, Saint Michael, Alaska 99659  
Phone # (907)923-2304/2405 FAX # (907)923-2406

March 13, 2024

Re: Support for SB 175

Dear Honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee,

The Native Village of St. Michael supports Senate Bill 175. Our community and other rural communities in Alaska need a system that will help with the ever-increasing problem of electronics waste that piles up in our landfills. St. Michael is located on the east coast of St. Michael Island in Norton Sound. It lies 125 mile southeast of Nome and 48 miles southeast of Unalakleet. The Yupik speaking Village of Saint Michael is a federally recognized Alaska Native Tribe. The Saint Michael economy is based on subsistence food harvests and gatherings, the traditional mainstay of village life. Local residents rely on seasonal commercial herring fishing, reindeer herding and subsistence seasonal food harvest. Subsistence activities include fishing, hunting, gathering driftwood, tundra plants, greens, and kelp. There are currently 446 people, living in Saint Michael of which 97% are Yupik.

It is very expensive for us to get spent electronics out of our community for proper recycling/disposal. If we can't get them out, or afford to get them out, they will end up in an unlined landfill where burning also occurs. We are concerned about the health effects from electronics that end up in our landfill and impacts to residents and subsistence resources. Product stewardship is a program where the manufacturer of an electronic device assumes financial responsibility on a life-cycle basis for that device. We need this in Alaska and SB 175 will help get us there and reduce the financial burden on rural communities across the state for dealing with spent electronics.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherisa Akhik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

IRA Council President,



Tuntutuliak Traditional Council  
PO BOX 8086  
Tuntutuliak Alaska, 99680  
Phone:907-256-2128; Fax 907-256-2080

March 12, 2024

To Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

We are writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 175 which creates a manufacturer funded system for collecting and recycling electronic devices. Tuntutuliak is on the Qinaq River, approximately 3 miles from its confluence with the Kuskokwim River and about 40 miles from the Bering Sea coast. It lies 40 miles southwest of Bethel and 440 miles west of Anchorage. Tuntutuliak is a traditional Yup'ik village with a fishing and subsistence lifestyle.

Everything goes to our landfill in our community. Including spent electronics and hazardous waste. Our landfill does not have a liner, or any kind of containment. Open burning occurs. Our landfill is close to town, the school, and water sources. Our health and environment are impacted. It is very expensive for us to ship out electronics. It can cost \$9000 or more to ship out a 20' connex of electronics and more on top of that for recycling fees. Electronics pile up and accumulate in our community and at our landfill every year so it is a continual problem for us. Our IGAP funding is spread very thin and we don't have enough to pay for the backhaul of electronics and other wastes each year. This is a burden for our community.

We support Senate Bill 175 and we want to see it passed. Many other states have Product Stewardship in the US and we are essentially paying for that, so we should also have it in Alaska too. Senate Bill 175 would help rural Alaska communities like Tuntutuliak financially afford safe disposal/recycling of electronics. We need this in our state.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Enoch, President

Tuntutuliak Traditional Council



# **ANVIK TRIBAL COUNCIL**

PO Box 10

Anvik, AK 99558

Office phone# 907-663-6322 Fax#1866-524-5035

March 13, 2024

Re: Support for SB 175

Dear Honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee,

The Native Village of Anvik supports Senate Bill 175. Our community and other rural communities in Alaska need a system that will help with the ever-increasing problem of electronics waste that pile up in our landfills. Anvik is a historically Athabascan community at the confluence of the Anvik and Yukon Rivers. The current site of the village of Anvik has a long history as a major settlement on the Yukon due to its centralized location for subsistence activities including fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering. The population of this community has been as high as 6,000 prior to Anglo contact, but now only has a year-round population of less than 100 people. Anvik is not characterized by a mixed subsistence and cash economy. Hunting and gathering still provide the mainstays of the community. Current residents rely heavily on taking fish, migratory birds and small and big game, which is the basis of the local economy. Subsistence resources are critical and all houses participate and rely heavily on the harvesting, consuming or sharing of resources; subsistence is the foundation of the lifestyle and economy in Anvik.

It is very expensive for us to get spent electronics out of our community for proper recycling/disposal. If we can't get them out, or afford to get them out, they will end up in an unlined landfill where burning also occurs. We are concerned about the health effects from electronics that end up in our landfill and impacts to residents and subsistence resources. Product stewardship is a program where the manufacturer of an electronic device assumes financial responsibility on a life-cycle basis for that device. We need this in Alaska and SB 175 will help get us there and reduce the financial burden on rural communities across the state for dealing with spent electronics.

Regards,

*Nathan Elswick*

Nathan Elswick- Environmental Director

**NATIVE VILLAGE OF KIPNUK  
KIPNUK TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

P.O. Box 57, KIPNUK, ALASKA 99614 ( 907 )  
896-5515 FAX ( 907 ) 896-5240

**SB 175 Letter of Support**

Date: March 14, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

The Kipnuk Traditional Council would like to offer this letter of support for Senate Bill 175 (SB 175) and the creation of a system that will help our community deal with the growing problem of electronic waste. The Kipnuk Traditional Council is a federally recognized tribe located in Kipnuk, Alaska. Kipnuk is a small community located in the southwestern part of the state of Alaska on Kuguklik River.

Our tribal community has an unlined Class III landfill, so we have been trying to find ways to remove electronic waste materials from the landfill and backhaul them to a designated place for proper recycling. Our staff is staying on alert for what goes into our landfill because we rely on subsistence cultural food. We have been collecting, storing, and applying for funds to backhaul electronic waste out of our community and it is expensive to do so, we were able to backhaul multiple connex worth of e-waste out of our community, but the costs are extremely high that it makes removing majority of our e-waste out of our community that much harder. We want to our program to be successful for future generations as this will be beneficial for our community's health and well-being and we can set an example that even during winter months that we can still provide the services to maintain and manage our solid waste programs and address resilience needs in our community.

Alaska needs product stewardship and SB 175 to allow for communities, such as ours, to deal with the electronic waste that has been overwhelming our solid waste programs. Please help us protect our community members and our subsistence lifestyle by passing SB 175.

Sincerely,

Tribal Administrator

Cornelius Samson

