



February 15, 2024

[Sent Via Electronic Mail]
Representative CJ McCormick
State Capitol Room 416
Juneau AK, 99801
Callan.Chythlook-Sifsof@akleg.gov

Re: Support for House Bill No. 235

Dear Representative McCormick:

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I write in support of H.B. 235, "An Act relating to the duty of law enforcement agencies to report missing persons and relating to a missing person."

At the 2023 Annual AFN Convention, AFN delegates passed Resolution 23-08 "*A Resolution Requesting the State of Alaska Mandate the Entry of Alaska Native Missing Person Cases in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (Namus).*" The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a national centralized repository and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States. NamUs provides technology, expertise, and resources to help investigators match long-term missing persons with unidentified remains to resolve cases and bring resolution to families and Tribes.

Resolutions 23-08 acknowledge the disparities in the system and address the lack of resources for public safety and protocols when people go missing, which H.B. 235 addresses. AFN supports this H.B. 235 to address the disparities in the system, advocate for more resources to support programs like NamUs, and advocate for better protocols within law enforcement when a person goes missing. AFN Resolution 23-08 demonstrates that AFN's membership, comprising 179 federally recognized tribes, 154 village corporations, 9 regional corporations, and 10 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums, is unified in support of finding a remedy for this situation.

If you have any further questions regarding AFN's position on House Bill 235 or our resolutions 23-08, please contact me at (907) 274-3611.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka
President