

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KREISS-TOMKINS, Spohnholz, Story

Introduced: 5/8/19

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the renaming of Saginaw Bay as Skanáx Bay.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

3 **WHEREAS** the bay that is situated on the north coast of Kuiu Island in the Alexander
4 Archipelago and is located across the Keku Strait from the community of Kake is currently
5 named Saginaw Bay; and

6 **WHEREAS** the bay is currently named for the USS Saginaw, a United States Navy
7 ship that shelled the village of Kake in 1869, destroying three civilian villages and three
8 smaller campsites; and

9 **WHEREAS**, after the USS Saginaw shelled buildings, canoes, and food storages at all
10 of the village sites, the United States government proceeded to name a nearby bay after the
11 USS Saginaw; and

12 **WHEREAS** the destruction from the shelling led to an unknown number of deaths by
13 starvation and exposure that winter, and survivors were forced to disperse and live with other
14 tribes; and

15 **WHEREAS** the bay's current name is an affront to the local Tlingit community and a
16 source of great discomfort for many residents of the City of Kake and the Organized Village

1 of Kake; and

2 **WHEREAS** the City of Kake and the Organized Village of Kake each passed a
3 resolution in support of renaming the bay from Saginaw Bay to Skanáx Bay, the bay's Tlingit
4 place name since time immemorial; and

5 **WHEREAS** the renaming of the bay as Skanáx Bay would be a constructive step
6 toward the healing of local Tlingit communities and would celebrate Tlingit language and the
7 first peoples of Southeast Alaska;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives supports renaming Saginaw
9 Bay as Skanáx Bay.