

SB

565



## Kuskokwim Native Association

May 9, 1980

The Honorable Clem Tillion  
Senate President  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Tillion:

We would like to support SB 565, enabling the State to recognize Native Village Governments and encouraging them to administer local governmental programs.

The State Revenue Sharing Program is one example of a means by which Native Village Governments might handle their own affairs and increase interaction and cooperation between the state and village governments.

At the present time, the only state revenue sharing funds that an unincorporated village is eligible for are Volunteer Fire Department monies. If we consider the state revenue sharing program as a means for the state to share its wealth with local governments to assist in local government function, then we are doing a tremendous disservice to those small unincorporated villages who are struggling to provide some of the same services as small cities in the unorganized borough. At a time when the Legislature is considering establishing regional units within the unorganized borough, I believe that we need to first strengthen the village local government capabilities.

I have been working in the area of local government for our KNA villages over the past three years. During that time I have seen much development in each village's capability to handle its own affairs. For the state to ignore our federally recognized Native Village Governments is a hinderance to the villages who are attempting to strengthen their local government capabilities and village development. For many villages, the Native Village Government is the only form of local government and should be encouraged to participate in state programs in the same manner as a second class city.

I would be happy to supply any additional information to you regarding specific questions dealing with Native Village Governments in our KNA area.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Jerabek*

Cheryl Jerabek  
Self-Determination/Local Govt  
Director

cc: KNA Village & Traditional Councils  
House & Senate Bush Caucus  
House & Senate C/RA Committee Members  
BOX 106, ANIAK, ALASKA 99557      PHONE (907) 675-4384