

SB

97

AMENDMENT #1

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

TO: SB 97

1 Page 4, line 14:

2 Delete "a recognized"

3 Insert "an"

4

5 Page 4, following line 18:

6 Insert a new paragraph to read:

7 "(7) "Alaska tribe" means an organized group or community in Alaska
8 that is an Indian tribe; in this paragraph, "Indian tribe" has the meaning given in 25
9 U.S.C. 450b(e) (Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act);"

10

11 Renumber the following paragraphs accordingly.

12

13 Page 5, line 3:

14 Delete ";

15 Insert "."

16

17 Page 5, lines 4 - 13:

18 Delete all material.

Laws, Cases and Codes : U.S. Code : Title 25 : Section 450b

Search

- [United States Code](#)
 - [TITLE 25 - INDIANS](#)
 - [CHAPTER 14 - MISCELLANEOUS](#)
 - [SUBCHAPTER II - INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE](#)

Section 450b. Definitions

U.S. Code as of: 01/19/04

For purposes of this subchapter, the term -

(a) "construction programs" means programs for the planning, design, construction, repair, improvement, and expansion of buildings or facilities, including, but not limited to, housing, law enforcement and detention facilities, sanitation and water systems, roads, schools, administration and health facilities, irrigation and agricultural work, and water conservation, flood control, or port facilities;

(b) "contract funding base" means the base level from which contract funding needs are determined, including all contract costs;

(c) "direct program costs" means costs that can be identified specifically with a particular contract objective;

(d) "Indian" means a person who is a member of an Indian tribe;

(e) "Indian tribe" means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.], which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians;

(f) "indirect costs" means costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one contract objective, or which are not readily assignable to the contract objectives specifically benefited without effort disproportionate to the results achieved;

(g) "indirect cost rate" means the rate arrived at through negotiation between an Indian tribe or tribal organization and the appropriate Federal agency;

(h) "mature contract" means a self-determination contract that has been continuously operated by a tribal organization for three or more years, and for which there are no significant and material audit exceptions in the annual financial audit of the tribal organization: Provided, That upon the request of a tribal organization or the tribal organization's Indian tribe for purposes of section 450f(a) of this title, a contract of the tribal organization which meets this definition shall be considered to be a mature contract;

(i) "Secretary", unless otherwise designated, means either the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of the Interior or both;

(j) "self-determination contract" means a contract (or grant or cooperative agreement utilized under section 450e-1 of this title) entered into under part A of this subchapter between a tribal organization and the appropriate Secretary for the planning, construction and administration of programs or services which are otherwise provided to Indian tribes and their members pursuant to Federal law: Provided, That except as provided (1) the last proviso in section 450j(a) (12) of this title, no contract (or grant or cooperative agreement utilized under section 450e-1 of this title) entered into under part A of this subchapter shall be construed to be a procurement contract;

Related Resources

- [American Indian Law Guide](#)
- [American Indian Lands Summary](#)
- [American Indian Law Articles and Documents](#)
- [American Indian Law Discussion](#)

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- [Attacking Software Piracy Overseas](#)
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LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

April 3, 2007

SUBJECT: CSSB 97(JUD), relating to identification seals
(Work Order No. 25-LS0405\K)

TO: Senator Hollis French
Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Attn: Cindy Smith

FROM: *TB*
Theresa Bannister
Legislative Counsel

This memo accompanies a draft of the bill described above.

This bill contains an equal protection issue. Since I believe that you are aware of it already, I will not go into further detail. However, if you need more information, please advise.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

TLB:ljw
07-187.ljw

Enclosure

SESSION ADDRESS:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4925
Fax: (907) 465-3517
Toll Free: 1-800-821-4925

Senator Gary Stevens

Alaska State Legislature

INTERIM ADDRESS:
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-4925
Fax: (907) 486-5264



Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 97

"An Act relating to identification seals for certain articles created or crafted in the state by Alaska Native persons; relating to the Alaska State Council on the Arts; and making certain identification seal violations unfair trade practices"

Senate Bill 97 seeks to improve the statutes governing the administration of the Silver Hand program. The Silver Hand program was created to help promote the creation, appreciation, and sale of Alaska Native art of the highest quality. Alaska Natives have a great variety of artistic traditions stretching back for millennia and which are still an important part of life today. Alaska Native art shares the cultures of Alaska Native peoples and enriches the lives of all Alaskans today. It is admired around the world, and is a vital part of the personal and community expression of Alaska Native identity. Alaska Native art is also highly valued in the marketplace, both within the state boundaries, and nationally and internationally. For so many reasons, it is good for all Alaskans to promote the creation of Alaska Native art and to ensure the legitimacy of Alaska Native art.

SB 97 will make several targeted changes to the law under which the Alaska State Council on the Arts administers the Silver Hand program. Among the changes it seeks to effect, it will delete obsolete references to agents, refers to the creations of Alaska Native artists with the term art instead of handicraft, clarifies the penalty for violating the Silver Hand laws and that sale and purchase of Silver Hand seals is prohibited, and sets out clearly the conduct related to Silver Hand seals that is not allowed.

SB 97 will take a good program and make it better. I urge your support passage of this legislation.

LEGAL SERVICES

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
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State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

March 5, 2007

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of SB 97 relating to identification seals for certain articles created or crafted in the state by Alaska Native persons. (Work Order No. 25-LS0405\M)

TO: Senator Gary Stevens
Attn: Doug Letch
JB

FROM: Theresa Bannister
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill. As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1. Amends AS 44.27.050 to conform the description of the identification seal duties of the Alaska State Council on the Arts to the changes made in this bill.

Section 2. Amends the list of unfair trade practices in the state's unfair trade practices act to add the identification seal conduct prohibited under AS 45.65.055.

Section 3. Amends the criteria that determine who may obtain an identification seal. Amends the criteria that determine which articles the seal may be affixed to.

Section 4. Amends the description of the responsibility of the Alaska State Council on the Arts relating to identification seals. Conforms the language to other changes made in this bill and adds fee collection responsibility.

Section 5. Amends AS 45.65.030(a) to conform to other changes made in this bill and to require that a space, rather than a blank line, be included for the artist's name and the place of origin of the article.

Section 6. Amends AS 45.65.040(a) to remove the reference to an agent in order to reflect that a permit can only be issued by the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Section 7. Amends AS 45.65.040(d) to require the Alaska State Council on the Arts to determine whether a person is eligible for the permit, as well as whether an article is eligible for an identification seal. Deletes the reference to an agent.

Senator Gary Stevens

March 5, 2007

Page 2

Section 8. Amends AS 45.65.040(e) to allow a person to report an identification seal violation and to delete the reference to agents.

Section 9. Adds a new section that describes the conduct that is prohibited when dealing with identification seals.

Section 10. Amends AS 45.65.060(a) to refer to the new sec. 45.65.055 (prohibited conduct) to describe what will be considered a misdemeanor with regard to identification seals. Adds a definition of "knowingly" and deletes "willfully."

Section 11. Amends AS 45.65.060(c) to conform the language to other changes made in the Act.

Section 12. Amends the definition to define "authentic Alaska Native art" as art that is created or crafted by an Alaska Native person.

Section 13. Amends the definition section to add definitions of "Alaska Native person," "art," "identification seal," "original," and "recognized Alaska tribe."

Section 14. Repeals certain provisions of AS 45.65.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

TLB:ljw

07-109.ljw

The integrity of the Silver Hand Program depends on the permit holders using the tags and labels in accordance with AS 45.65.010-45.65.070 and 3AAC 58.005- 900.

Unlawful use of the Silver Hand identification should be reported to ASCA immediately.

DEFINITIONS

"Authentic Native handicraft": an article made in the state, which is composed wholly, or in significant part, of natural materials, and which is produced, decorated or fashioned by an Alaska Native.

"Native": a resident having not less than one-quarter Eskimo, Aleut, or Indian blood. (American Indians whose tribes are indigenous to other states are not eligible for this program.)

"Natural material": material produced or existing in nature, not artificial or manufactured, and derived from lands, plants, animals or other natural resources.

"State resident" (AS43.23.095) means an individual who is physically present in the state with the intent to remain indefinitely in the state under the requirements of AS 1.10.055.

PENALTIES FOR MISUSE OF THE SILVER HAND IDENTIFICATION LABEL OR PERMIT

Sec. 45.65.060.

- (a) A person who knowingly or willfully issues the document for or affixes or attaches the identification label provided for in this chapter to an article, knowing that it is not an authentic Native handicraft, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- (b) A person who knowingly or willfully sells or offers for sale an article with the label affixed or attached, knowing that it is not an authentic Native handicraft, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- (c) A person who knowingly or willfully alters, changes, or counterfeits an identification label or emblem, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
- (d) A person who has been issued a permit under AS 45.65.030(a) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if the person knowingly or willfully issues a permit for an article that is not an authentic Alaska Native Handicraft.

REVOCATION AND DEBARMENT

Sec. 3 AAC 58.075

- (a) The permit of a person authorized to use the Silver Hand label or the Made in Alaska emblem or to act as an agent for either the Silver Hand or the Made in Alaska program who is convicted of an offense under AS 45.65.060 is automatically revoked on the date of the conviction.
- (b) Any person who is convicted of an offense under AS 45.65.060 is barred from any further participation in either the Silver Hand or the Made in Alaska program.
- (c) After notice and opportunity for hearing, the Council will, in the Council's discretion, revoke a permit for failure to comply with the requirements of AS 45.65.010 – 45.65.070 including the payment of fees, and this chapter.

TO DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION

Go to the ASCA website www.eed.state.ak.us to download and application to fill out by hand.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please direct questions concerning the Silver Hand Permit Program to ASCA. Alaskan artists may also be eligible for the Made in Alaska Program. For more information on Made in Alaska call 907/272-5634.

SILVER HAND PERMIT APPLICATION



ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 1E
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2343
Tel: (907)269-6610
Fax: (907)269-6601
Toll Free in Alaska: 1-888-278-7424
TTY: 1-800-770-8973
Email: aksca_info@eed.state.ak.us
Website: www.eed.state.ak.us/aksca



Celebrating 40 years of support for the arts in Alaska

Senator Johnny Ellis, Chair
Alaska State Senate
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Sent via email

March 7, 2007

Dear Senator Ellis and members of the committee:

The Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) would like to lend our support to the passage of SB 97, relating to the Silver Hand Program.

This statute revision will strengthen the relationship between our agency and the Alaska Native artists we serve in many respects. One of the primary tenets of the Silver Hand program is the mark of authenticity for the over 1400 artists that our program represents, and for the thousands of visitors to our state who purchase this work every year.

A major study conducted of Alaska Native Artists last year under the auspices of the Ford Foundation found that almost 90% of the artists surveyed felt that the counterfeit native art market in the state is an enormous problem. While ASCA can't prohibit the sale of native art knock-offs, we certainly can strength our own resident's ability to sell work through our Silver Hand program, and inform the buying public about our program.

Another revision will incorporate the expansion of allowable materials that Native Artists can use in their work and still be in our program. Currently, only natural materials can be used, which means that many of our most well known contemporary Native artists are not eligible for the Silver Hand program. This revision will correct that problem.

The economic impact of the arts in Alaska is certainly worth mentioning. In 2001, the MacDowell Group did a survey of Alaska Arts and Crafts Industry – all sectors – and found that over 4,500 Alaskans earned income from arts-related activity, and in 2001, Alaska artists earned an estimated \$20 million. Total direct employment in the creative industry was approximately \$40 million in annual income, including profit and non profit sectors.

Although the consumer numbers are not conclusive, the same survey cited above indicated that 30% of Alaskans who purchased art in 2001, bought only Alaska Native work, and 56% of those consumers said they looked for the Silver Hand symbol when

buying Native art. As ASCA increases our publicity efforts and consumer education programs, we hope that this number grows.

ASCA is currently working closely with the Federal Trade Commission and the tourist industry to ensure that visitors to our state are aware of the importance of buying authentic Alaska Native art.

The revision of this statute and the strengthening of our policies will have impact in two major ways:

- 1) On the consumer side, to strengthen the education and enforcement efforts so that visitors and residents alike buy authentic Alaska Native art by increasing civil penalties;
- 2) On the artist side, to provide Alaska Native artists with more economic opportunities by shifting our emphasis to authenticating the artist and expanding the allowable art materials.

I appreciate your committee taking the time to review this legislation that is vital to our agency and to our Alaska Native artist population.

Sincerely,

Charlotte A. Fox
Executive Director



Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository

215 Mission Road, Suite 101, Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-7004 Fax: (907) 486-7048 www.alutiiqmuseum.com

Senator Gary Stevens
Legislative Session Contact
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 27, 2007

Dear Senator Gary Stevens,

I am writing to express my sincere support for SB97. This proposed draft statutes reflects an exhaustive survey, many discussions, and testimony's by Alaska Native artists about their needs in supporting and protecting Alaskan Native arts. SB97 language represents years of primary stakeholder feedback in the only state endorsed Alaska Native arts authentication program, the Silver Hand. With no cost to the state, SB97 accomplishes many critical objectives in serving a statewide constituency.

This bill establishes a relationship between Silver Hand permit holders and the Alaska State Council on the Arts, the program's administering state agency. The bill links the Silver Hand permit program to State of Alaska consumer protection and fair trade law. It also helps to strengthen agency enforcement capability's and clarifies consumer and permit holder protections. SB97 expands economic and creative opportunities for artists by including contemporary Alaska Native artists as important constituents served by the permit program. The bill allows Alaska Native artists to use all material deemed important in the creation of their art and clarifies eligible visual art mediums.

SB97 also enables Federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes to identify eligible permit holders. SB97 aligns with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990. SB97 empowers the state to promote and protect Silver Hand permit holders who's work represents a very significant, yet quiet, contribution to statewide commerce.

I want to thank you for updating the statutes with SB97. While this may seem like a very small act it will help the Alaska State Council on the Arts support and protect Alaska Native Artists artwork.

Quyanaasinaq, "thank you very much"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sven Haakanson Jr.".

Sven Haakanson Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director
Alutiiq Museum

Perry R Eaton
12000 Shenandoah Road
Anchorage Alaska 99516
(907) 345- 0281

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801
By fax: (9097) 465-3517

March 1, 2007

Dear Senator Stevens,

Gary, this is just a short note to let you know that I am 110% in support of SB97; the "modernization" of the Silver Hand program. What you have in front of you is the result of very diligent and solid work on the part of the Alaska State Council on the Arts in collaboration with the states Native artists. The revisions bring to the program the opportunity to be much more effective and responsive to the needs of today's Native artist, while adding no financial burden to the state.

Of all the changes proposed, I am particularly pleased with the fact that the Federally Recognized Tribes identify the eligible participants. This eliminates any specter of paternalism, removes a large administrative burden from staff, and builds on synergistic activities of other Federal and State programs and organizations.

All in all, it's a great piece of work and I strongly encourage your support to move the bill.

Perry R Eaton

110 Nicholoff Way
P.O. Box 322
Cordova Alaska 99574



ph 907.424.7903 fax 907.424.3018

Museum and Gift Gallery of the Prince William Sound, Copper River Delta and Gulf of Alaska Natives

Senator Gary Stevens
Legislative Session Contact:
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-4925
fax: 907-465-3517

March 2, 2007

Dear Senator Gary Stevens,

As Director of a federally recognized tribe's Cultural Center, I would like to express my support for SB97. This is a much needed update to the respected Silver Hand program.

Our cultural center's mission is to preserve our heritage through teaching and exhibiting traditional art and skills. We accomplish this through traditional art and skills classes and the gift shop which provides a sales venue for quality produced pieces. The silver hand program has been valuable to us as authentication of our tribal artists and to help us identify the work of other native artists throughout the state. We are very aware of the confusion deceptive marketing and sales practices can create around Native-made arts and crafts and support every effort to protect authentic Alaska native art.

As a member of the Museums Alaska board of directors, I have been aware of the statewide need for revisions and some of the tremendous amount of work that has gone into these recommendations for revision through SB07. I strongly urge you to see this bill through.

Quana (Thank you!)

LaRue Barnes

LaRue Barnes
Director Ilanka Cultural Center

0017001

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Inupiat Heritage Center
5421 North Star Street
PO Box 69
(907) 852-0422
(907) 852-4224 Fax
(907) 852-4594



March 5, 2007

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am writing to express my support for SB97, a bill which links the Silver Hand permit program to the State of Alaska consumer protection and fair trade law.

Passage of this bill is extremely important as it will help strengthen agency enforcement capability and clarify consumer and permit holder protection. This bill will also help expand economic and creative opportunities for Alaska Native artists. Most importantly SB97 will help align with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 and empower the state to promote and protect Silver hand permit holders.

Alaska Natives contribute significantly to statewide commerce and I strongly encourage your support to move the bill. Quyanaq.

Sincerely,

Dorcas Stein, Coordinator
Inupiat Heritage Center

cc: Commissioners, Inupiat History, Language and Culture, North Slope Borough

6



Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

March 5, 2007

Dear Senator Stevens,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill SB97 that would introduce modernizations to the Silver Hand Program and which represents a thorough analysis and synthesis of needs voiced by Alaska Native artists and the expertise of Alaska State Council on the Arts. The comprehensive and collaborative nature of the revisions ensures that proposed changes will increase the both the effectiveness of the Program and the degree to which it serves Alaska Native artists. At the same time, the revisions, particularly the strengthened enforcement of the Program, will improve the economic welfare of the artists and their families, while improving their economic contribution to the state.

Sincerely,

Dawn Biddison
Assistant Curator
Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center
Alaska Regional Office
121 W. 7th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: 907-343-6131
Fax: 907-343-6130
biddisondd@ci.anchorage.ak.us

ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER
Department of Anthropology
10th and Constitution N.W.
Washington DC 20560-0112
(202) 357-2682 Telephone
(202) 357-2684 Fax



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER
at the Rasmuson Center
121 W. 7th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 343-6131 Telephone
(907) 343-6130 Fax

5

From: gary murphy [eskimogary@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2007 7:34 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Support Bill SB97

Senator Stevens, Please support Bill 197 . I am a Alaskan Native artist and fully support bill SB97. Sincerely Yours Gary R. Murphy

From: Sen. Gary Stevens
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2007 9:10 AM
To: Tim Lamkin
Subject: FW: SB97 Silver Hand retooling

-----Original Message-----

From: Teri Rofkar [mailto:ravenart@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2007 9:51 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Saunders McNeill; Charlotte Fox
Subject: SB97 Silver Hand retooling

Hello Gary Stevens,

Thank you for sponsoring this bill to retool the Silver Hand program. As a full time Native Artist, I am delighted to see some updated laws to fuel an economic opportunity throughout the state of Alaska. Money earned through the Native Arts most of the time contributes to a healthier financial profile for small villages, as well as the larger tourist hubs. I sat on the ASAC task force, and we are intentionally moving away from authenticating the art, which is vague and hard to enforce... while we move toward authenticating the Artists, by using existing protocols.

Streamlining the authentication process will help as we work towards tackling the big problem of counterfeit native art. A bill like this will bring us in line with Federal Laws. A recent article in AARP said that "up to half of the Native Crafts (sold in the US) are counterfeit"

stated Jill Moran, of the US Dept. of the Interior Indian Arts and Crafts Board... This problem is a national issue, and Alaskans, because of our self sufficient and CAN DO attitude are a front runner in finding creative solutions. The Silver Hand program is part of that solution.

Thank you again for taking the first step.

Gunalcheesh, Ho, Ho,

Teri Rofkar
820 Charles St.
Sitka, AK 99835

March 6, 2007

Senator Gary Stevens
Legislative Session Contact:
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-4925
fax: 907-465-3517

Dear Senator Gary Stevens,

The Bering Strait Inuit Council (BSIC) is highly supportive of SB97, which would help modernize the Silver Hand Program. Our small group supports regional artists in the Northwest Territory of Alaska for the survival of unique art forms to continue for future generations. BSIC has members who are federally recognized as indigenous groups. Silver Hand Members include Siberian Yupik, Yupik and Inupiaq artists from our region.

Our regional indigenous artists depend on this program to prove the authenticity of their handmade products. We desperately need to be protected from unauthorized imitations of our style of art. Our art helps to connect us to our cultural roots of successful survival in this northern hemisphere. Our ancestors struggled throughout the winter months yet created unique carvings that linked them to spiritual survival. We still depend on subsistence activities, and the arts and crafts we create for economic development. With the continuing rising costs of modern living and the threats of coastal erosions, our artists need this protection from this proposed bill.

We look forward to working with the Alaska State Council on the Arts to bring this program into the 21st century.

Sincerely,



MaryJane Anuqsraaq Litchard
President
Bering Strait Inuit Council
P.O. Box 948
Nome, Alaska 99762
(907) 443-4248
(907) 443-4449



ALASKA
NATIVE
HERITAGE
CENTER

March 6, 2007

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

fax: 907-465-3517

Dear Senator Stevens:

We at the Alaska Native Heritage Center are in full support of SB97. This bill is based on surveys, discussions, and testimony in the Alaska Native arts community and builds upon a Native Artists Summit held at AFN in October 2007. At no cost to the state, SB97 accomplishes many critical objectives in serving artists statewide.

Among the bill's strengths:

- It establishes a relationship between Silver Hand permit holders and the Alaska State Council on the Arts, who administers the program.
- Critically important, it links the Silver Hand permit program to State of Alaska consumer protection and fair trade laws.
- It expands the definition of Native art to include contemporary works, which constitute a huge contribution to our state's economy and culture.
- It allows Alaska Native artists to use all materials – not just those termed "traditional" that are important in the creation of their art.
- It aligns with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990.
- Most importantly, it serves the needs of Alaska Native artists throughout the state.

I join many others in the Native community in support of this bill and thank you for your support as well.

Chin'an ("Thank you"),


Benjamin Ross, MBA
President and CEO

From: Gale Parsons [mailto:gparsons@prattmuseum.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2007 11:16 AM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Senate Bill SB97

7 March 2007

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative LeDoux,

Thank you for crafting Senate Bill (SB97) and companion House Bill (HB161) to update the Silver Hand program statutes. The proposed changes represent long requested and important improvements to this program for Alaska Native artists. As an artist and Exhibits Director of the Pratt Museum in Homer I have been aware of the program, its importance and inadequacies since arriving in Alaska 28 years ago or since the beginning of the program. I have worked closely with Alaska Native artists through my work at the Pratt beginning in 1995 and understand the frustrations outlined in the comments below that the Bills address.

1. Establish a primary service relationship between Silver Hand artists and the Alaska State Council on the Arts. The agent arm of the permit program will be removed.
2. Strengthen enforcement capability by linking Silver Hand statues to Alaska consumer protection and fair trade practices statutes. Civil penalties for the misuse of the Silver Hand emblem will be added. Aligns with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990.
3. Expand economic and creative opportunities by including contemporary Alaska Native artists and the materials deemed important in the creation of their. The statutes expand the definitions section and define eligible visual art mediums.
4. Enable Federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes and ANCSA to identify eligible permit holders. Reference to blood quantum will be removed.
5. Empowers the state to promote and protect Silver Hand permit artists who's work represents a very significant economic contribution to the state.

Thank you for addressing this need.

Sincerely,

Gale Parsons

Gale Parsons, Director of Exhibits
Pratt Museum
3779 Bartlett Street
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-8635 x 36

From: Vera Crews [mailto:consult@veracrews.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2007 1:52 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: SB167

Please support SB 167 – which is meeting at the same time as I'm writing this, I think
it should accomplish these things:

1. Establish a primary service relationship between Silver Hand artists and the Alaska State Council on the Arts. The agent arm of the permit program will be removed.
2. Strengthen enforcement capability by linking Silver Hand statues to Alaska consumer protection and fair trade practices statutes. Civil penalties for the misuse of the Silver Hand emblem will be added. Aligns with Federal language established in the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990.
3. Expand economic and creative opportunities by including contemporary Alaska Native artists and the materials deemed important in the creation of their. The statutes expand the definitions section and define eligible visual art mediums.
4. Enable Federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes and ANCSA to identify eligible permit holders. Reference to blood quantum will be removed.
5. Empowers the state to promote and protect Silver Hand permit artists who's work represents a very significant economic contribution to the state.

Thanks you,
Vera Crews, Anchorage
Alaska State Council on the Arts

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This symbol is your guarantee that this is a genuine article made in Alaska handcrafted and finished by an Alaska Native artist or craftsman.

Artist
 Origin
 Permit No.

