

HB

217

<TARGET><BILL>HB 217</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
217</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA28</COMM></TARGET>

Nancy Manly

From: Freddie Olin
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 8:38 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Cc: Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Subject: HB 217 Invited Testimony

Good morning Nancy,
We have invited testimony from the following individuals hopefully in this order, as indicated in-person or teleconference:

Ross Soboleff, In-Person
Selina Everson, In-Person
Lee Kadinger, COO Sealaska Heritage Institute, In-Person
Albert Kookesh, Sealaska Board of Directors Chair, Teleconference Off-Net

Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins will also be in attendance, and hopefully will have time for a few words.

Thanks,
Freddie
x6848 direct

PETER NARROZ (B217)

Tuesday, April 08, 2008

MY TURN: THE PAST AND FUTURE OF THE TONGASS

By Dr. Walter Soboleff | Juneau Empire

When I was born in Killisnoo, in 1908, the Tongass National Forest had just celebrated its first birthday. President Theodore Roosevelt set aside this land and water when Killisnoo was a bustling, productive community which produced much wealth. We processed everything from herring to whales and used everything from blueberries to Sitka Spruce. Nearby Angoon provided labor to Killisnoo, to canneries in Hood Bay, Hawk Inlet and the mines in Juneau. A coal mine was worked in Angoon as trees were cut to provide for buildings, heating and docks. We utilized our resources.

President Roosevelt, the great conservationist, proclaimed:

"And now, first and foremost you can never forget for a moment what is the object of our forest policy. That is not to preserve the forests because they are beautiful, though that is good in itself, not because they are refuges for the wild creatures of the wilderness, though that too is good in itself, but the primary object of our forest policy, as the land policy of the United States, is making of prosperous homes. It is part of the traditional policy of home making in our country. Every other consideration comes as secondary. You yourselves have got to keep this practical object before your minds; to remember that a forest which contributes nothing to the wealth, progress or safety of the country is of no interest to the government and should be of little interest to the forester. Your attention must be directed to the preservation of the forests, not an end in itself, but as a means of preserving and increasing the prosperity of the nation."

As we, the people and communities of the Tongass spent the next 50 years working together to share in this wealth with the United States, we mostly got along. Some newcomers were not friendly and brought bad manners with them and worse. Nonetheless, we welcomed them as we worked our fisheries, our timberlands and local mines while continuing our customary and traditional activities which have sustained us from the beginning. The economy prior to statehood offered the people of Southeast choices, something we no longer seem to have despite many advances in healthcare and many dollars spent on education.

With statehood, the Tongass and then I turned 50. The promise of a brighter future shone as we Alaskans would finally be "equal." The federal government invested in clean hydro-electric projects planned to power all our communities with affordable electricity. Alaskan Natives would be able to settle our claims for loss of aboriginal rights and for the first time stand side by side with Alaskans who homesteaded their lands. We understood from watching the treatment of our brothers and sisters in the Lower 48 that broken promises were the rule but we still believed this need not be so.

So, the Tongass just celebrated its 100th and Alaska is coming up on its 50th which is way too fast for my liking and I ask where we are today? Are we walking side by side with our fellow citizens, our fellow Alaskans? Do we have the opportunities that existed prior to Statehood? Are

we able to utilize our lands and waters as a means to create energy, jobs and wealth for our families?

Our villages today suffer in a way I have never seen. Angoon fights for its survival. As a member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and a witness to the work of the Lord, I have found the energy to share openly, firmly and with resolve the need to address the condition of our people with those who have come to live with us. Sadly, our work is not nearly done.

The federal government controls the land in Southeast Alaska and we rely on their word and commitment in our dealings. The Tongass was intended to create the type of wealth and security known from time immemorial by my people. Angoon has survived millennia and overcome many changes and is prepared to continue to contribute if allowed to do so.

- Dr. Walter Soboleff is a Tlingit spiritual leader and elder statesman who lives in Juneau.

HB 217 Invited Testimony:

- ✓ Sasha and Ross Soboleff *brother + sister*
- ✓ Bill Martin
- ✓ Selina Everson

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

House District 34

rep.jonathan.kreiss-tomkins@akleg.gov

Committees:
Transportation
Fisheries
State Affairs



State Capitol, Room 426
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

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SPONSOR STATEMENT HB 217

HB 217 will designate November 14th as "Dr. Walter Soboleff Day," recognizing Dr. Soboleff as a respected Tlingit elder, scholar, statesman, storyteller, and business man who affected the lives of many Alaskans throughout his dignified career.

A member of the Yéil (Raven) moiety, L'eeneidí (Dog Salmon) clan, Dr. Soboleff was a translator and scholar of Tlingit language and storytelling, and was the first Native Alaskan to be ordained as a Presbyterian minister, and travelled on Shipboard Mission work throughout Southeast Alaska from 1940-1962. As a scholar, the University of Alaska Fairbanks honored his contributions to the University of Alaska system with an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities in 1968. Dr. Soboleff then started the Alaska Native Studies undergraduate degree program at UAF in 1970, providing opportunities to this day for young Alaska Native students at UAF to learn more about their cultures and histories. The University of Alaska Southeast named a campus building after him in 1976. Dr. Soboleff also was a trustee of the Sealaska Heritage Institute starting in 1985, and served as its chair from 1988 until May of 2011, when he "walked into the woods" at the age of 102. Dr. Soboleff also served as President of Kootznoowoo, Inc., a director of Sealaska Corporation, and Grand Camp President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. He was the first Alaska Native to serve on the State Board of Education, for which he served as chairman.

The Sealaska Heritage Institute broke ground on the Walter Soboleff Center in August 2013. The center, located in downtown Juneau, will be devoted to the study of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures. The building will also house the Sealaska Heritage Institute, where Dr. Soboleff devoted so much of his life's work. It is due to be completed by the end of 2014.

Dr. Soboleff's contributions to the state of Alaska are on par with Elizabeth Peratrovich of civil rights fame. Elizabeth Peratrovich, a Tlingit woman from Petersburg, Alaska, has been honored with a day of recognition on February 14th, the day the Alaska Territorial Legislature passed the Anti-Discrimination Act making discrimination against Alaska Natives illegal throughout the territory.

I urge your support for this legislation on recognizing the important contributions to the State of Alaska the late Dr. Walter Soboleff has made, to be held annually on his birthday November 14th.

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

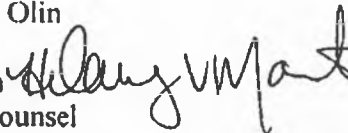
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

January 24, 2014

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of HB 217
(HB 217; Work Order No. 28-LS0932\U)

TO: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Attn: Freddie Olin

FROM: Hilary Martin 
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 - the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1. Establishes November 14 as Dr. Walter Soboleff Day and states that the day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

HVM:Ind
14-018.Ind

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 217
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB217-DOA-FAC-02-14-14
Title: DR. WALTER SOBOLEFF DAY
Sponsor: ** KREISS-TOMKINS, P.WILSON
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: General Services
Allocation: Facilities
OMB Component Number: 2429

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version

Prepared By: Tom Mayer, Director
Division: Division of General Services
Approved By: Curtis Thayer, Commissioner
Agency: Department of Administration

Phone: (907)465-5677
Date: 02/14/2014 12:00 PM
Date: 02/14/14

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

**STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HB 217

Analysis

This bill establishes November 14 of each year to honor Dr. Walter Soboleff. The Department of Administration, Division of General Services does not anticipate any fiscal impact from the proposed legislation.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

House District 34

rep.jonathan.kreiss-tomkins@akleg.gov

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State Affairs



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January 26, 2014

To: Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
Fr: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Re: HB 217 Hearing Request

Dear Representative Lynn,

I respectfully request a hearing on HB 217: "An Act establishing November 14 each year as Dr. Walter Soboleff Day," at the convenience of the Chair of House State Affairs Committee. I would also request the teleconference line be open for public testimony in lieu of travel to the State Capitol, if and when a hearing date would be set. My staff member Freddie Olin will be assisting our efforts in moving the bill along the legislative process. He can be reached at (907)465-6848.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JKT".

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins