SWAMC Seafood Harvesting Labor Data Collection Project

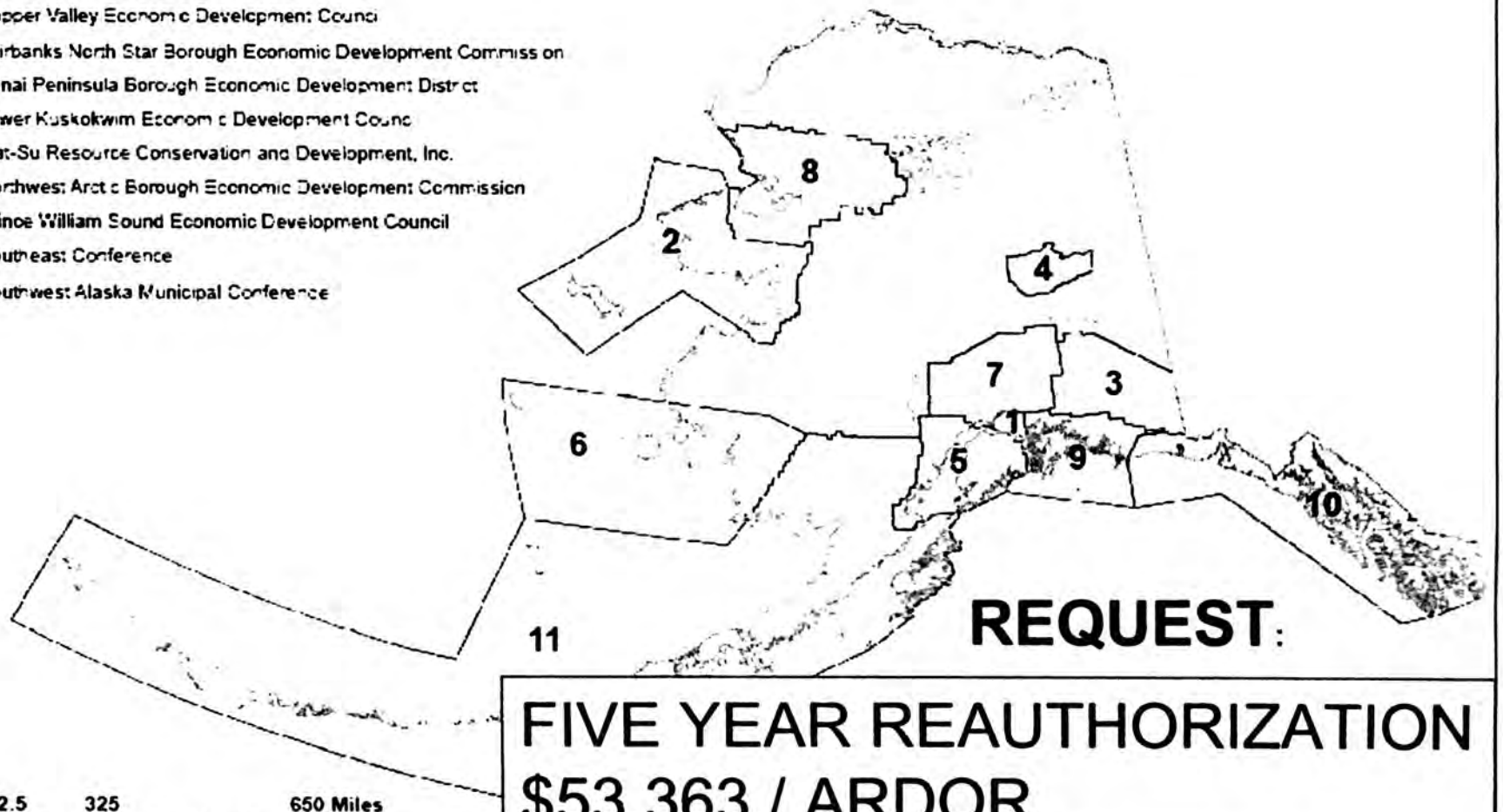
Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDORS)

Partners in developing our state and regional economies.

Legend

ARDORS

1. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
2. Bering Straits Development Council
3. Copper Valley Economic Development Council
4. Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission
5. Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District
6. Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council
7. Mat-Su Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.
8. Northwest Arctic Borough Economic Development Commission
9. Prince William Sound Economic Development Council
10. Southeast Conference
11. Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference



REQUEST:

FIVE YEAR REAUTHORIZATION

$53,363 / ARDOR

SCOMM

146:19

At this time we will call the meeting to order.

Let the record reflect the time is 12:15 am on Tuesday, February 21, 2008.

Let the record show that

- [x] Representative Gatto
- [x] Representative Lynn
- [x] Representative ~~Kohring~~ KeLLER
- [x] Representative Johansen
- [x] Representative Doll
- [x] Representative Doogan
- [x] And myself Representative Neuman

and that we have a quorum.

(Let the record also reflect that _____ has been excused from the committee meeting today.)

Today we will be hearing from

SB 97 ALASKA NATIVE ART IDENTIFICATION SEALS
version 25-LS0405\K

Sponsor SENATOR STEVENS

Sen. Stevens, Tim Lamkin (and maybe Ben Brown)
would you please come take a seat.

Before you start please, state your name for the record.

Does the committee have any questions?

Testimony from the Public: Online, In the room

Will of the committee

Thank You. This committee is adjourned

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-35

TITLE: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING ALASKA NATIVE ARTISTS AND THEIR CREATIVE WORK BY UPDATING THE STATE STATUTES GOVERNING THE SILVER HAND PERMIT PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The Silver Hand Permit Program is the State of Alaska's sanctioned Alaska Native Arts authentication program and has been administered by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, a division of the State Department of Education & Early Development, since 1998 upon the recommendation of a Governor- appointed Alaska Native review committee; and

WHEREAS: The Silver Hand Permit Program currently serves more than 1,500 permit holders, who collectively represent 151 Alaska Native villages and Alaska's three largest cities, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, and which anticipates a steady increase in eligible applicants in the future; and

WHEREAS: The Silver Hand Permit Program supports the integrity and integration of the subsistence lifestyle, cultural well-being, sustainability of village residency and socioeconomic potential for Alaska Native artists and their families by helping Alaska Native artists earn crucial cash income from artwork that can be produced without having to leave their villages; and

WHEREAS: The Silver Hand identification seal is recognized and promoted by the majority of large and small tourism companies, statewide retailers, state agencies and contractors as the primary means for consumers to identify and therefore purchase authentic Alaska Native artwork produced by and in Alaska Native artists residing in Alaska; and

WHEREAS: The use of the Silver Hand identification seal results in a proven marketing advantage and provides needed economic benefits to Alaska Native artists through increased sales and optimum sale prices in comparison to items not authenticated with the Silver Hand identification seal; and

WHEREAS: The statutes governing the Silver Hand Permit Program have remained unchanged since the early 1970s and now needs to be updated to respond to dramatic changes in the creative pursuits and expression of Alaska Native artists and the expansion of consumer and tourism markets; and,

WHEREAS: AFN has made a prior commitment to "protect the market price of Alaska Native artwork and prevent imitation and duplication of Alaska Native creative endeavors" through the convention passage of Resolution No. 95-57 in 1995; and

WHEREAS: The AFN Board of Directors meeting held on February 12 & 13, 1996 established policy guidelines "with respect to the arts and crafts sales during the annual convention of the corporation" required that for, "articles that are being sold, the following identification must be evident on the article, or attached to it: 1. A Certified Silver Hand tag identifying the article as made by an Alaska Native;" and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 97 and House Bill161 before the 25th Alaska Legislature would enact amendments to the statute governing the Silver Hand Permit Program. The Alaska Federation of Natives supports the following amendments to the Program:

1. Expand enforcement capability by adding civil penalties for misuse of the identification seal;

2. Expand allowable materials and art disciplines to include contemporary Alaska Native artists and contemporary art materials;

3. Expand definitions of eligible visual art media to help permit holders and consumers;

4. Replace *craft* reference with *art* reference to be more inclusive of all art types;

5. To be eligible for the program, we support a requirement of proof that the individual is 1) an Alaska Native and an enrolled member of an Alaska Native tribe; or, 2) an enrolled member of Alaska Native Corporation;

6. Award permits directly to individual artists only and eliminate the unused "agent" portion of the program (already suspended by Council policy);

directly result in a Silver Hand Permit Program improvements benefiting Alaska Native artists and Alaska Native tribal members.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN requests the State of Alaska Legislature Senate and House to pass and enact the legislative described above to make every legally binding effort to protect and promote Alaska Native artists and their creative work on the open market.

SUBMITTED BY: THE EYAK CORPORATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER 2

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC. CORPORATE SEAL STATE OF ALASKA

Shosh Seligman

From: Andrei Chakine [achakine@ccthita.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 4:37 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Vic Kohring; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Andrea Doll; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Mary Nelson; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Stephen Wade; Bill Martin; Andrei Chakine
Subject: SENATE BILL NO. 97
Attachments: image003.jpg; image001.jpg

COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL NO. 97
May 8, 2007

Attn: Representative Mark Neuman
Chair of House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Dear Mr. Neuman,

On behalf of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) and our 26,000 members, we are submitting the following comments on the SENATE BILL NO. 97, "An Act relating to the 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."

We feel compelled to comment on the SB97 as it directly impacts our families in their efforts to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency. The very nature of the Silver Hand Program goes to the heart of the preservation of Native Alaskan culture and heritage. Safeguarding the culture from crass commercialism and ensuring the perpetuation of native communities through quality economic development of that culture should be the highest goal of any legislation in this regard. This can only be achieved through legitimate, extended, and open discussions with the Native Alaskan communities.

We are of the opinion that affording the opportunity to comment or participate in legislative hearings concerning the proposed measure to all Native Alaskans that wish to do so is absolutely important and necessary. Therefore, we request that any action in regards to the SENATE BILL NO.97 is to be postponed until the next session, and that all Native Alaskans, especially those that are currently enrolled in the Silver Hand Program, are given a fair chance to voice their concerns and opinions in regards to the proposed law.

Please feel free to call on us if there is anything we can do to support your efforts as you address our concerns.

President William E. Martin
Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

###

CCTHITA Contact:
Andrei Chakine, Manager (achakine@ccthita.org)
Stephen Wade, Economic Development Specialist (swade@ccthita.org)
Business & Economic Development Department
9097 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801
Ph: (907) 463-7121
Fax: (907) 463-7356

This E-mail is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510-2521 and is legally privileged. This information is confidential information and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited.

Shosh Seligman

From: Daisy G Schumacher [daisyj@alaska.com]
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2007 10:28 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Silver Hand

I agree with Helen McNeil and will support her opinions on it. Although I don't have a Silver Hand permit, I help our Native children with the making of traditional arts and crafts and know many local Native Artists. The children make these crafts to raise money to support their Alutiiq Dance program. The local Native artists make these items to make a living for themselves without having to depend on government cheese. In some point in the future, I see one of these youngsters taking up the making of traditional Native arts and crafts. We should do everything we can to preserve the Silver Hand program because this program ensures a way for the public to know that the item they are purchasing is made by Alaska Natives. Thank you.

Daisy G. Schumacher, Office Manager
Kodiak Tribal Council, Inc.

Beth Schneider

From: Sven Haakanson [sven@alutiiqmuseum.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 8:05 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rex Shattuck
Subject: Silverhand

Dear Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. I was part of the panel and we debated the issues that were brought up in the last meeting. While we would like for all Alaskan Natives to have access to the Silverhand it was designed to help Alaskan Natives living in Alaska. To help our Alaskan Market. As you well know most of the Native artists live in the rural area's and they don't have access to the market as others who live in the cities or in the lower 48.

I am the Chair of the Alaska State Council on the Arts. When our council talked about this program we all agreed it was time to bring it up to date.
This is why we are proposing the suggested changes with SB97.
I want to thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

I am also a silver hand permit holder.

If you have further questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,
Sven Haakanson Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director
Alutiiq Museum
215 Mission Road, Suite 101
Kodiak, AK 99615
www.alutiiqmuseum.com

Shosh Seligman

From: OscarsFineArt [oscarsfineart@starband.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 8:27 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rex Shattuck; saunders_mcneill@eed.state.ak.us
Subject: Corrected

Corrected: See Below

Honorable Representative Mark Neuman,

I am writing in suppport of Senate Bill 97 relating to the Silver Hand permit, "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."

I am a Silver Hand permit holder, and have been a participant for several years. I joined in hopes that the consumer of the "Alaska Native Handicraft" items may be able to distinguish fake art from the imitators who are not Native.

There is not enough support to the Silver Hand program from the State of Alaska that it has provided to the "Made in Alaska" insignia, and would require better language to enable support to the Silver Hand program. So that illegal production of the arts and crafts made by imitators will be enforced.

I recommend this first step to protecting rural communities FROM PRODUCERS OF ILLEGAL arts and crafts who take away our source of income in work-starved rural communities, and that if possible, offer better support by the state in enforcing the program.

John Oscar, Fine Artist
Oscar's Originals
PO Box 76
Mekoryuk, AK 99630-0076
(907) 827-8549 Studio
Web: www.oscarsoriginals.com
Email: oscarsfineart@starband.net

Beth Schneider

From: Shirley Tuzroyluke [stuzroyluke@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 11:59 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rex Shattuck
Subject: Support the Silver Hand Permit Program

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.
I applied to be a Silver Hand Permit Holder in he early 90's and believe that I'm still registered.

Sincerely,

Shirley Tuzroyluke

Beth Schneider

From: Glenda Lindley [lindleyg@jsd.k12.ak.us]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 8:59 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.
(If you are a Silver Hand permit holder PLEASE state that you are)

Sincerely,

glenda Lindley
4411 Portage Blvd.
Juneau, Ak 99801

Beth Schneider

From: wlhuss@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 9:04 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: *****SPAM***** Silver Hand Bill

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

While I am not able to use the Silver Hand personally, my daughter, daughter in law, and grand children are potential users of this valuable symbol of Native Made Art. It creates a distinguishing mark and adds value to art created by Native Alaskan Artists.
When tourists buy something with the Silver Hand, it is an assurance that the art is Native Alaskan made and it adds to the memories tourists talk about when they return home.

Sincerely.

Winifred Huss, Kotzebue Teacher, retired

AOL now offers free email to everyone. Find out more about what's free from AOL at AOL.com.

Beth Schneider

From: Umara [umara@alaska.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 10:22 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Sb 97

I am a professional native Artist that has been in the silver hand program for twenty some years.I do not support Sb 97 and did not know it existed until today. I also resent that I was not asked for input or comment on a bill that affects my livelihood. The council of arts should not be able to take action like this with out informing the people it supposedly represents. Please stop this bill, it would not be right to make these changes with out the silver hand artists being aware of or understanding their consequences.

Thank you for your time.

Dora Nupowhotuk/Buchea
P.O. Box 853
Slana, Alaska 99586

Phone :907-822-3074

Shosh Seligman

From: Helen McNeil [hsmcneil@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2007 1:16 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Vic Kohring; Rep. Bob Lynn; Repr_Andrea_Doll@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Mike Doogan
Cc: Rex Shattuck
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

SB 97, as written, it will only be a dis-service to Alaska Native Artisans and Craftsman of cultural items.
As written, SB 97 is maintaining separation and unequal treatment in Alaska.
The Silver Hand Program is to provide economic opportunity and marketing tools for Alaska Native artisans while providing assurance to buyers that the Traditional Alaska Native style items are made by Alaska Natives.
The "Silver Hand Program" had been transferred to the Alaska Department of Education, Alaska State Arts Council – away from the Alaska Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development (DCCED). The "Made in Alaska" program remains with CDDED where it benefits from public education, advertising, inspections and enforcement of the statutes.

RETURN THE SILVER HAND PROGRAM TO THE DEECD under the Duties of Department regulations, specifically AS 44.33.020 (a), (2), (6), (7), (13), (14), (19), (21), (30), (31), (36).
The current statute of Sec. 14. AS45.65 clearly defines Alaska Native Handicraft with its clear penalties for selling fake items as Alaska Native made. Keep these Statues in the DCCED.

Retain Sec. 14. AS 45.65. in the DCCED.

Retain the intent of the word "handicraft" by keeping "Arts and Crafts" in the wording.
Remove all reference to "Agent" of the Silver Hand Program.

Define Alaska Native as a person who has a Tribal membership card OR a BIA Tribal membership card identifying an Alaska Native Tribal ancestory.
Enact legislation to ban the importation of Alaskan style items, thus eliminating tons of imitation art that flood the market now. New Mexico, Arizona and Montana have this type of laws. Even if it takes a decade or more to become fully enforceable, it will raise the status of ALL Alaska Arts and crafts to where it should be. All Alaskan Craftsman will be able to make a living wage. Look at the DCCED reports on the income of Alaska gift shops to see the possible income that would stay in the state rather than leave Alaska every September.

Thank you for your time and attention to what I have presented here

ShtaKaawTe'
Helen McNeil

Shosh Seligman

From: L. Saunders McNeill [saunders_mcneill@eed.state.ak.us]
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2007 12:49 PM
To: 'Wanda Culp'
Cc: n_c_barnes@msn.com; pjcad48@hotmail.com; Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: RE: SB 97

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Green

Dear Wanda,

The Silver Hand program was transferred to the Alaska State Council on the Arts in 1998. The transfer was requested by Governor Knowles through Executive Order 100. Gov. Knowles initiated the transfer based on recommendations from his appointed Native Arts panel (separate from any state agency affiliation and as part of his Marketing Alaska Task Force), consisting of Alaska Native artists and non-state Native art program administrators to evaluate the efficacy of management of all state programs.
The Native arts panel believed the Alaska State Council on the Arts would better serve the interests of Alaska Native artists. It was at their behest that Gov. Knowles transferred the program. I have copied the EO to the bottom of this email.

The perception that the transfer of the Silver Hand program back under the umbrella of the Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development will result in the "refunding" of the Silver Hand permit program is misinformed. All state programs have experienced significant funding reductions since the mid 1980's. State departments have also sustained significant staffing cuts. There are less staff to administer more programs with significantly less funding.

The funding for the Made In Alaska program is specific to that permit program and is provided as a line item within the DCEED appropriation. The transfer of the Silver Hand program back to DCEED would not make it eligible for Made In Alaska designated funds. In addition, the transfer of the Silver Hand program back to DCCED would be expensive, time consuming, not result in any increase in program funding, and undermine important programmatic institutional memory gained within the Alaska State Council on the Arts over the past nine years. In my opinion the proposed statutes have nothing to do with transfer to DCEED which would prove a terrible detriment to the program and the services currently provided to Alaska Native permit holders by ASCA staff. ASCA has effectively built and expanded upon the work DCEED did on behalf of Silver Hand permit holders. ASCA provides public education, advertising through a statewide educational campaign, conducts site visits and inspections, documents fraud violations and transfers those cases to the Attorney General's office for enforcement of the Silver hand and consumer protection statutes. The Federal Trade Commission, the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, other state agencies, Alaska Native Cultural Centers and private entities partner with our agency to provide extensive services to Alaska Native Artists and Silver Hand permit holders alike.

It is also incorrect that DCCED has enforcement authority. It does not. The enforcement authority for the state lies in the Attorney General's office in the Department of Law. The Alaska State Council on the Arts has nurtured a strong partnership with the Department of Law Fair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection program attorneys to address cases of Native art fraud, Silver Hand related and otherwise. The Silver Hand statutes can not control the illegal import of fake art objects over state, federal or international lines. There are other statutes in place, separate from current Silver Hand statutes, that address these illegal activities and violations of the law.

The import of "replica" work, made in "an Alaska Native art style" is legal as long as each object is labeled accordingly. While there is no question that the availability and local sale of these items offend the aesthetic sensibilities of Alaska Native artists, their advocates and many of their patrons, the practice is not fraudulent nor illegal. Our partnerships with both State and Federal enforcement agencies has allowed us to function as an effective liaison for Native artists and Native art patrons when they file a fraud complaint pertaining to the Silver Hand emblem or other Native art misrepresentation. If evidence can be provided to help investigators, then those investigators work to

substantiate and address those complaints.
However, each case is evaluated confidentially. A case is not in public view until it is either resolved or settled and registered in documents accessible through public record. The effect of this constitutional practice can result in Alaska Native artists feeling like there is no enforcement.
There are some overlap issues with the Silver Hand permit program but not always. The statutes for the Silver Hand program establish jurisdiction over the use of the emblem. These other issues of illegal imports and legal replicas fall under the jurisdiction of local governance, consumer protection law, and federal fair trade practices law. The Arts Council works in close partnership with all of the enforcement agencies established to protect Alaska Native artists rights under these laws.

Currently the Silver Hand permit program statutes provide for criminal penalties for the misuse of the emblem. The proposed new statute would actually add a provision for civil penalties which would, through our partnership with the State Attorney General's office, expand our agency's enforcement capabilities. The step to "Enact legislation to ban the importation of Alaskan style items, thus eliminating tons of imitation art that flood the market now" is a good idea. And ASCA is aware of other states that have implemented this law through their own state legislatures. But legislation to ban the import of such items into the state is a distinct law separate from the improvements and expansions presented in SB97. Therefore, it should be proposed in a distinct and separate bill for public testimony and consideration.

Everyone impacted by the Silver Hand permit program is encouraged to expressed their opinion about the current statutes through the well established public legislative process. To date we have sent letters to all the Silver Hand permit holders, posted notification in our newsletter, and sent out broadcast emails to individual artists and Native arts organizations to notify Native artists. In addition, anyone is permitted to log in, free of charge, to listen to and testify in the legislative hearing teleconferences. Hopefully this information is helpful in understanding the permit program, its history, enforcement issues and the Arts Council's relationship to all of it. If you have any additional question feel free to contact me.

Best wishes,

Saunders McNeill
Community and Native Arts Program Director Alaska State Council on the Arts

The Executive Order reads as follows from the January House Journal dated 01-12-1998

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_single_journal.asp?session=20&date=19980112&beg_page=2011&end_page=2029&chamber=H&jrn=2022)

01-12-1998 House Journal Page 2013/2014

Suzi Lowell, Chief Clerk
Nancy Schaufelberger, Assistant Chief Clerk
Peggy Sepulveda, Assistant Chief Clerk

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR
A message dated January 9, 1998, was received stating under the provisions of Article III, section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, the Governor requests the opportunity to address a joint session of the Twentieth Alaska State Legislature on Tuesday, January 13, 1998, at 8:00 p.m. for presentation of the State of the State Address, and Thursday, January 15, 1998, at 8:00 p.m.
for presentation of the State of the Budget Address.

EO 100 EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 100:
Moving the responsibility for administration of the authentic Native handicraft identification seal program from the Department of Commerce & Economic Development to the Alaska State Council on the Arts within the Department of Education. was referred to the Community & Regional Affairs and Labor & Commerce Committees. The Governor's transmittal letter, dated January 12, 1998, appears below:

Dear Speaker Phillips:
I am transmitting an Executive Order to formally transfer the authentic Native handicraft identification seal program, known as the "silverhand" program, from the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

This transfer places the program in an arm of state government more closely allied with the artistic nature of the articles that bear the program's seal. The council's general oversight of other artistic endeavors should allow for smooth integration of the administration of the silver hand program. The transfer will result in better efficiency and more knowledgeable application of the statutory provisions.

I urge your support of this Executive Order to help streamline state government operations.

Sincerely,
Tony Knowles
Governor"

-----Original Message-----
From: Wanda Culp [mailto:kashudoha07@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2007 8:17 AM
To: n_c_barnes@msn.com; pjcad48@hotmail.com; Rep_Mark_Neuman@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: saunders_mcneill@eed.state.ak.us
Subject: SB 97

To All This Concerns,

After further investigation into the wording of SB 97, I have to state that, as written, it will only be a dis-service to Alaska Native artisans of cultural items.

As written, SB 97 is creating a separation and unequal treatment in Alaska.

The Silver Hand Program is to provide economic opportunity and marketing tools for Alaska Native artisans while providing assurance to buyers that the Traditional Alaska Native style items are made by Alaska Natives.

I did not realize that the "Silver Hand Program" had been transferred to the Alaska Department of Education Arts In Alaska State Council - away from the Alaska Department of Commerce Community and Economic Development (DCCED).
The balancing "Made in Alaska" program remains with CDDED where it benefits from public education, advertising, inspections and enforcement of the statutes. RETURN THE SILVER HAND PROGRAM TO THE DEECD under the Duties of Department regulations, specifically AS 44.33.020 (a), (2), (6), (7), (13), (14), (19), (21), (30), (31), (36).

The current statute of Sec. 14. AS45.65 clearly defines Alaska Native Handicraft with its clear penalties for selling fake items as Alaska Native made.

Retain the intent of the word "handicraft" by keeping "Arts and Crafts" in the wording.

Remove all reference to "Agent" of the Silver Hand Program.

Enact legislation to ban the importation of Alaskan style items, thus eliminating tons of imitation art that flood the market now. New Mexico, Arizona and Montana have this type of laws. Even if it takes a decade or more to become fully enforceable, it will raise the status of Alaska Native arts and crafts to where it should be rather than mired under imitation fake replicas.

Retain Sec. 14. AS45.65.060 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e).

Thank you for your time and attention to what I have presented here

Wanda J. Culp, dba "KASHUDOHA VISIONS"

Download Messenger. Join the i'm Initiative. Help make a difference today.
http://im.live.com/messenger/im/home/?source=TAGHM_APR07

Beth Schneider

From: Jimmy Carlisle [kingisland99762@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 11:44 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rex Shattuck

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

I have been part of the Silver program in the past, and when the chance arises, I do encourage other Native Artist to participate in the Silver Hand program. This program is a way for the Native Artist to insure the public that they are getting Authentic Native Crafts and something not made in some foreign country.

Thank you for your consideration with this matter.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Carlisle,
Vice President
King Island Native Corporation
And
Native Artist

Watch free concerts with Pink, Rod Stewart, Oasis and more. Visit MSN In Concert today.

Beth Schneider

From: Mike Webber / Toni Godes [leax@ctcak.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 5:15 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: *****SPAM***** silver hand

I would like to support SB 97 the silver hand bill. I am a native carver that lives in Cordova.

Mike Webber

Alaska Gulf Coast Carving
Mike Webber
PO Box 1711
Cordova, AK 99574

907.424.7471
leax@ctcak.net
www.alaskacarving.com

Beth Schneider

From: Marty Waters [waters_marty@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 5:06 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: support SB97

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I, Marty Waters, Silver Hand Artist, Permit # 1560 support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.
(if you are a Silver Hand permit holder PLEASE state that you are)

Sincerely,

Marty Waters

Watch free concerts with Pink, Rod Stewart, Oasis and more. Visit MSN In Concert today.

Beth Schneider

From: Theresa John [lftj@uaf.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 4:24 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: SB 97

I support SB 97 as it is written. Thank you very much for you consideration.

Sincerely,
Theresa Arevgaq John

Beth Schneider

From: Molly Lee [ffmcl@uaf.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 4:34 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rex Shattuck
Subject: In Support of Silver Hand Bill

Dear Honorable Rep. Neuman,

As an anthropologist who has studied Alaska Native art for thirty years, I support SB97 as it is written and urge your support as well. The program is vital to the continuance of the rich resource that Alaska Native art represents for the entire state. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Molly Lee

Molly Lee, Ph.D.,
Curator of Ethnology, Professor of Anthropology University of Alaska Museum PO Box 82564
(907 Yukon Dr.) Fairbanks, AK 99775-6960
Tel: (907) 474-7821

Beth Schneider

From: Robert Hoffmann [robert4kris@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 4:35 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rex Shattuck
Subject: SB97

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

I am not a Silver Hand permit holder, but will be applying for one soon.
I am an Alaska Native artist.

Sincerely,

Robert Hoffmann

--
Robert Hoffmann
621 Sawmill Creek Road
Sitka, Alaska 99835
ph: 907-966-2607
fax: 574-966-2600

Beth Schneider

From: Lois Thadei [aleutwoman@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 4:56 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Please Support SB97 as amended.

Please support SB97, looking pretty good now. Nice peice of artistic legislation. While I am outside now, I do return routinely, and have my home near Ketchikan. So, I am anxious to see SB 97 pass.

Lois Chichinoff Thadei (Aleut-Sealaska)
Mailing Address: 120 State Ave. NE #1455 - Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: Day: (M - F 8 - 5) 360-902-7857
Evening/Weekends: 360-539-5031
E-mail: aleutwoman@comcast.net
Artist's Humble Home Page: http://home.comcast.net/~aleutwoman/wsb/html/view.cgi-home.html-.html
Sealaska Artists Page: http://www.alaskanativeartists.com/lois_chichinoff_thadei.htm
Aleut Factbites: http://www.factbites.com/topics/Aleuts
Alaska Native Heritage Center: http://alaskanativearts.net/name.htm#t
First Peoples Fund: http://www.firstpeoplesfund.org/Grant%20Programs/CommSpirit/2006Spirit/2006Spirit.htm
Residence: Contact artist for driving directions.

Beth Schneider

From: Anna Ehlers [chilkatsplendor@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 3:03 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Silver Hand

Silver Hand Bill 97 is effective as written. I have participated in the Silver Hand program since it's inception. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Brown Ehlers
United States Artist
Chilkat Weaver from the Chilkat Valley

Ahhh...imagining that irresistible "new car" smell?
Check out new cars at Yahoo! Autos.

Beth Schneider

From: Pamla Credo-Hayes [pcredohayes@ccthita.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 3:28 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Silver Hand

Dear Representative Neuman, please reconvene a committee re the Silver Hand permit of Alaska Native artists. The word is out that if you purchase a Silver Hand item that it is authentic Alaska Native Art. Thank you.

P.S. I am representing myself as an Alaska Native Artist and I am not representing Tlingit and Halda or any other organization.....thank you.

Beth Schneider

From: akaleut@arctic.net
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 3:31 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rex Shattuck
Subject: Silver Hand

Dear Representative Neuman,
I am an Aleut born and raised in Unalaska, located out on the Aleutian chain.

I hold Permit No. 24 of the Silver Hand. I proudly make the Aleut Bentwood hats and visors, I had the distinguished honor of learning from the late Andrew Gronholdt. This was a dying art, but, was single handedly revived by Mr. Gronholdt.

I also do the Aleut basketweaving, skin sewing and gut sewing. I am a teacher of Aleut Art and when I am hired in my schools, or for that matter, schools in the Aleut region, I am Proud to say I am a Silver Hand artist and encourage other Alaska Natives to acquire the permit as well.

I strongly support SB97.

Thanks for your valuable time and especially your consideration for us Alaska Native people.
Sincerely,
-Okalena Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory

Beth Schneider

From: Senungetuk [turon@xyz.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 2:07 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Re: SB97 Silver Hand Bill

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. It will be a much needed update of the Silverhand statutes. It will mean that many Alaskans and visitors will appreciate more of our unique forms of art and it will also be an economic enhancement for us all. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Ron Senungetuk

Beth Schneider

From: ronhoney [ronhoney@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 12:40 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: silver hand bill

Please support the silver hand bill. I am alice scherp, a silver hand artist in big lake, ak. My alternate e-mail address is ronhoney@gci.net thanks very much.

Beth Schneider

From: Steve or Irma Brown [samarsea@wavecable.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 11:57 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: silver hand bill

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. Alaska Native artists need to be clearly visible in this age with foreign copies being sold as the genuine article. The silver hand gives buyers a clear and reliable guide to authenticity.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Brown
Sequim, Washington
(former Alaska resident)

Beth Schneider

From: Roger Alexander [ralexander@kpunet.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 11:07 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: silver hand

Honorable Rep. Neuman
I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation Sincerely S Roger Alexander silver hand artist

Beth Schneider

From: Gloria Cunningham [gloria@nveyak.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 10:19 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: Silver Hand Bill

Honorable, Rep. Neuman,
I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. I am an Silver Hand permit holder.
Sincerely,

Gloria Cunningham
Elder Service Coordinator
Native Village of Eyak
P.O.Box1388
Cordova, Alaska 99574
907-424-7738

Beth Schneider

From: Darlene Nichols [darlene@nveyak.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 10:04 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: SB97

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

As an Alaskan native artist and a Silver Hand permit holder, I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you very much for your consideration of this important legislation. This is also my representation for my mom and other native artists from the village of Kipnuk, AK. Thank you for listening to my voice of concern on this subject.

Sincerely,
Darlene C. Nichols
Yup'ik

Beth Schneider

From: Philip Owens [dentyivorycarver@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 9:02 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Philip M Owens

Beth Schneider

From: Beckie Etukeok [BEtukeok@alaskanative.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 10:44 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: SB97

Honorable Rep. Neuman,

I support SB97 as it is written. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Beckie Etukeok
Silver hand artist

Beth Schneider

From: Jan Steinbright [jsteinbright@sj-alaska.edu]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 9:50 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Subject: support HB97

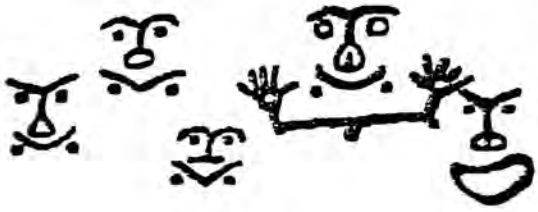
Representative Neuman:
Again, I ask for your support for HS97 (The Silver Hand Bill) as it is so important for our Alaska Native artists to have some control over authentication of their work. The new wording gives some latitude the old version did not and will allow more inclusion. Please support this bill.

Thank you, Jan Steinbright
Assistant Director
Alaska Native Studies
Sheldon Jackson College

Beth Schneider

From: Shirley Moto [smoto@nativefederation.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2007 9:43 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman
Cc: Rex Shattuck
Subject: Support SB97

Honorable Mark Neuman,
I support bill SB97. The silverhand program is a positive initiative for the Alaska Native community. Thank you.
Shirley Moto



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"

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 SB97. I strongly urge you to see this bill through.

Quana (Thank you!)

LaRue Barnes

LaRue Barnes
Director Ilanka Cultural Center

3

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 Bill97 . I am a Alaskan Native artist and fully support bill SB97. Sincerely Yours Gary R. Murphy

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Arctic Studies Center

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

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

Dorcas Stein, Coordinator
Inupiat Heritage Center

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

6

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 "traditio..." 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"),

Jonathan 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

10

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

From: sonya kellhercombs [mailto:kellihercombs@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2007 12:08 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject:

Dear Senator Gary Stevens,
This letter is in support of the proposed update to the Silver Hand program, SB97. As a lifelong Alaskan and Alaska Native Artist I know the true need for an authentication program such as the Silver Hand. The proposed changes to the Silver Hand through SB97 will bring it into the next century. Our children and communities will be able to prosper through the use of this program for generations to come.
Thank you so much for your support of SB97.
Sincerely,
Sonya Kelliher-Combs

6:40

- **At this time we will call the House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade, And Tourism to order.**

- **Let the record reflect the time is 5:00 P.M.**
  The day is TUESDAY, May 1, 2007

- **With us today are**

  - [x] Representative Gatto
  - [ ] Representative Lynn
  - [x] Representative Kohring
  - [ ] Representative Johansen
  - [x] Representative Doll
  - [x] Representative Doogan
  - [x] And myself Representative Neuman

- **Let the record reflect that we have a quorum present**

- **First on the agenda this evening is a presentation by Walter Sampson. Walter is the Vice President of Lands & Resources for NANA. He is here this evening to talk about Red Dog and it's economic impact on Northwest Alaska. Following the presentation we will be hearing SB 97, which has frequently been referred to as the Silver Hands Bill. The Sponsor of this piece of legislation is Senator Gary Stevens.**

- **Let's start by welcoming our presenter and before you start please state your name and affiliation for the record.**
- **I would ask that members of the committee hold your questions (or not) to the end of the presentation.**
- **Thank you for your presentation**
- **Does the committee have any further questions or comments**
- **Again, I want to thank you and remind members of the Committee that you will be here in Juneau for a couple of days should they have any questions.** WALTER
- **I would now like to invite Sen. Stevens / Tim Lamkin up to introduce** SB 97 ALASKA NATIVE ART IDENTIFICATION SEALS. **We are adopting 25-LS0405\K for purpose of discussion**
- **Welcome Sen Stevens / Tim Lamkin Please state your name for the record and give us an explanation of SB 97.**
- **Does the committee have any questions or comments on ~~HB 137~~** SB 97
- **We will move to testimony from those on line around the state. I will call out the LIO and your name. To assist the clerk, you will then clearly state your name for the record and begin your testimony.**

- **Beginning with (See the online Sheets) __._____**

- (After each testimony) **Does the committee have any questions?**

(If no questions remember to thank each presenter and call for the next one)

- **We will now move back to Juneau and take testimony from those here in the room *(see the list)*. Again before you begin, please state your name for the record.**

- **Have we missed anyone wishing to testify on ether bill?**

- **We will not close testimony to at this to allow further comments next meeting.**

- **Does the committee have any further questions or comments on SB 97?**

- **Hearing none we are adjourned**

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

Memorandum

To: **Representative Mark Neuman, Chair**
House Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism Special Committee

From: **Senator Gary Stevens**

Date: **April 12, 2007**

Re: **SB 97 Hearing Request, pending referral**

I respectfully request a hearing before the House Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism Special Committee regarding SB 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. SB 97 is informally known as the Silver Hand bill.

In the enclosed packet are the sponsor statement, copy of the original version of the bill, the Senate Judiciary's committee substitute, a sectional analysis, background materials, letters of support, and a zero fiscal note from the Dept. of Education and Early Development.

I expect testimony to come from representatives of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and perhaps also from Alaska Native Artists.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact myself, or my aide Tim Lamkin at extension 4925 with any questions you may have.

Senate District R
Senator_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us

SILVER HAND - SB 97

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.

ALASKA
STATE COUNCIL
ON THE ARTS

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.

Senate District R
Senator_Gary_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us

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 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

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.