



March 30, 2021

Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Zulkosky,

On behalf of Native Peoples Action, a statewide Indigenous non-profit, I am writing to express our strong support and appreciation for House Bill 123 – An Act Providing for State Recognition of Federally Recognized Tribes.

Alaska Native people have lived on these lands since time immemorial. Tribal governments have held a special recognition and place in Alaska dating pre-contact as sovereign governments and continue to provide important services and support including public safety, economic development, and protectors of our lands, waters and people. These are all efforts that continue to serve Tribal citizens and Alaskans today.

Alaska is home to 229 federally recognized Tribes. This formal government-to-government relationship was established with the federal government, however, no formal recognition by the State of Alaska has taken place. We appreciate and recognize the important step that HB 123 takes to correct this long overdue wrong and formally recognize Alaska's federally recognized Tribes.

For many years, and even today, trauma has been inflicted on Native people ten-fold with the lack of respect and lack of recognition of our sovereign status. The fact that the state of Alaska does not recognize Tribes continues to be a point of contention and trauma. Tribes and Native people bring extensive contributions to our state, including millions of dollars for healthcare through Indian Health Services and education dollars through Head Start. Our Native cultures are filled with a rich history and there is no Alaska without the Indigenous people who have stewarded these lands for thousands of years.

NPA strongly encourages all legislators to join you in taking this important step to help begin the process to bring healing and recognition that will open more opportunities to better working relationships between Tribal and state governments. We appreciate your leadership and stand ready to help in any way possible.

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa/Quyana/Mahsi'/Baasee'/Maasee'/Dogedinh/Thank you,

*Kendra Kloster*

Kendra Kloster  
Executive Director  
Native Peoples Action