

July 24, 2015

Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Alex.Ortiz@mail.house.gov

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0203
Greg_Bringhurst@murkowski.senate.gov

Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Erik_Elam@Sullivan.senate.gov

Re: Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act

Dear Congressman Young and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan:

On behalf of the ANCSA Regional Association (“the Association”), I write to express our full support of the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act, which proposes to provide equitable treatment of Alaska Native Vietnam veterans by amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to permit qualified veterans to apply for up to 160 acres of land pursuant to the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906 (ANAA). By way of background, the ANCSA Regional Association represents the Chief Executive Officers of the 12 land-based regional Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), as well as the President of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Our corporations are owned by over 116,000 Alaska Native people and were formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, 43 U.S.C. § 1601, et. seq. (ANCSA). Our mission is to collaborate in the creation of a sustainable socioeconomic future for Alaska Native people.

Alaska Natives and Native Americans have a long and proud history of military service, enlisting in greater numbers per capita than any other racial group. Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict. At the same time the Vietnam War was being fought, our Alaska Native land rights were being settled. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 extinguished the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906. It was logistically impossible for Alaska Natives serving in the military to apply for their allotments during this time, even though they were eligible.

In 1998, Congress passed the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act (Act) to provide Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans who served between 1969 through 1971 the opportunity to apply for an allotments within 18 months of the implementation of rules pursuant to the Act. Regretfully, not every Alaska Native veteran who became eligible applied for an allotment due to communication

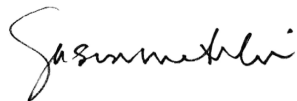
and geographical challenges. Furthermore, the Act includes three major hurdles that prevented Alaska Native veterans from selecting and obtaining their allotments.

First, Alaska Native veterans could only apply if they served for at least six months between January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971 – even though the Vietnam conflict ran from 1964 to 1975. Second, veterans could only apply for land that was vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved when their use first began – meaning the land base was severely restricted by previous transfers and land designations already made. Third, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans had to prove they used the land applied for in a substantially continuous and independent manner, potentially exclusive of others, for at least five years or more – which was difficult if not impossible as a result of military service. Because of these and other obstacles, most applications submitted under the 1998 Act were denied, including all of the applications for allotments by qualified Alaska Native Vietnam veterans in the following regions: Southeast, Cook Inlet, Chugach and Arctic Slope.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam conflict. We have lost many brave Alaska Native servicemen in the years since who would have otherwise been eligible to apply for an allotment but for their in-country service. As such, we strongly urge you to champion federal legislation to provide living Alaska Native Vietnam veterans or their heirs the opportunity to apply for a Native allotment. We further ask that you include provisions in the bill that would right the wrongs identified above, and that you work with us on a legislative strategy.

Alaska Natives have a unique and spiritual connection to our lands. Allowing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to participate in the allotment program will honor their service to our country. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact me, or Kim Reitmeier (907-952-0027) if you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the content of this letter.

Sincerely,



Jason Metrokin
Chair

cc: ANCSA Regional Association Board of Directors:

Michelle Anderson, President, Ahtna, Inc.

Thomas Mack, President, Aleut Corp.

Rex Rock, Sr., President and CEO, Arctic Slope Regional Corp.

Gail Schubert, President and CEO, Bering Straits Native Corp.

Jason Metrokin, President and CEO, Bristol Bay Native Corp.

Andrew Guy, President and CEO, Calista Corp.

Gabriel Kompkoff, CEO, Chugach Alaska Corp.

Sophie Minich, President and CEO, CIRI

Aaron Schutt, President and CEO, Doyon, Ltd.

Elizabeth Perry, CEO, Koniag, Inc.

Wayne Westlake, President and CEO, NANA Regional Corp.

Anthony Mallott, President and CEO, Sealaska Corp.

Julie Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives

August 05, 2015

Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Alex.Ortiz@mail.house.gov

Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Senate Office Building
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Greg.Bringhurst@murkowski.senate.gov

Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Erik.Elam@Sullivan.senate.gov

Re: Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act

Dear Congressman Young and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan:

On behalf of Arctic Slope Native Association, I write to express our full support of the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act, which proposes to provide equitable treatment of Alaska Native Vietnam veterans by amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to permit qualified veterans to apply for up to 160 acres of land pursuant to the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906 (ANAA).

Alaska Natives and Native Americans have a long and proud history of military service, enlisting in greater numbers per capita than any other racial group. Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict. At the same time the Vietnam War was being fought, our Alaska Native land rights were being settled. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 extinguished the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906. It was logistically impossible for Alaska Natives serving in the military to apply for their allotments during this time, even though they were eligible.

In 1998, Congress passed the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act (Act) to provide Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans who served between 1969 through 1971 the opportunity to apply for an allotments within 18 months of the implementation of rules pursuant to the Act. Regretfully, not every Alaska Native veteran who became eligible applied for an allotment due to communication and geographical challenges. Furthermore, the Act includes three major hurdles that prevented Alaska Native veterans from selecting and obtaining their allotments.

First, Alaska Native veterans could only apply if they served for at least six months between January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971 – even though the Vietnam conflict ran from 1964 to 1975. Second, veterans could only apply for land that was vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved when their use first began – meaning the land base was severely restricted by

previous transfers and land designations already made. Third, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans had to prove they used the land applied for in a substantially continuous and independent manner, potentially exclusive of others, for at least five years or more – which was difficult if not impossible as a result of military service. Because of these and other obstacles, most applications submitted under the 1998 Act were denied, including all of the applications for allotments by qualified Alaska Native Vietnam veterans in the following regions: Southeast, Cook Inlet, Chugach and Arctic Slope.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam conflict. We have lost many brave Alaska Native servicemen in the years since who would have otherwise been eligible to apply for an allotment but for their in-country service. As such, we strongly urge you to champion federal legislation to provide living Alaska Native Vietnam veterans or their heirs the opportunity to apply for a Native allotment. We further ask that you include provisions in the bill that would right the wrongs identified above, and that you work with us on a legislative strategy.

Alaska Natives have a unique and spiritual connection to our lands. Allowing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to participate in the allotment program will honor their service to our country. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the content of this letter.

Sincerely,



Marie Carroll
CEO/President

Cc: ASNA Board of Directors



July 16, 2015

The Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Alex.Ortiz@mail.house.gov

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The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0203
Greg_Bringhurst@murkowski.senate.gov

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Erik_Elam@Sullivan.senate.gov

RE: Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act

Dear Congressman Young and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan:

On behalf of Bering Straits Native Corporation, I write to express our full support of the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act, which proposes to provide equitable treatment of Alaska Native Vietnam veterans by amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to permit qualified veterans to apply for up to 160 acres of land pursuant to the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906 (ANAA).

Alaska Native people and Native Americans have a long and proud history of military service, enlisting in greater numbers per capita than any other racial group. Approximately 2,800 Alaska Native people served in the military during the Vietnam conflict. At the same time the Vietnam War was being fought, our Alaska Native land rights were being settled. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 extinguished the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906. It was logistically impossible for Alaska Native service people serving in the military to apply for their allotments during this time, although they were eligible.

In 1998, Congress passed the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act (Act) to provide Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans who served between 1969 through 1971 the opportunity to apply for an allotments within 18 months of the implementation of rules pursuant to the Act. Regretfully, not every Alaska Native veteran who became eligible applied for an allotment due to communication and geographical challenges. Furthermore, the Act includes three major hurdles that prevented Alaska Native veterans from selecting and obtaining their allotments.

First, Alaska Native veterans could only apply if they served for at least six months between Jan. 1, 1969 to Dec. 31, 1971 – even though the Vietnam conflict ran from 1964 to 1975. Second, veterans could



only apply for land that was vacant, un-appropriated, and unreserved when their use first began – meaning the land base was severely restricted by previous transfers and land designations already made. Third, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans had to prove they used the land applied for in a substantially continuous and independent manner, potentially exclusive of others, for at least five years or more – which was difficult if not impossible as a result of military service. Because of these and other obstacles, most applications submitted under the 1998 Act were denied, including all of the applications for allotments by qualified Alaska Native Vietnam veterans in the following regions: Southeast, Cook Inlet, Chugach and Arctic Slope.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam conflict. We have lost many brave Alaska Native servicemen in the years since who would have otherwise been eligible to apply for an allotment but for their in-country service. As such, we strongly urge you to champion federal legislation to provide living Alaska Native Vietnam veterans or their heirs the opportunity to apply for a Native allotment. We further ask that you include provisions in the bill that would right the wrongs identified above, and that you work with us on a legislative strategy.

Alaska Native people have a unique and spiritual connection to our lands. Allowing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to participate in the allotment program will honor their service to our country. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the content of this letter.

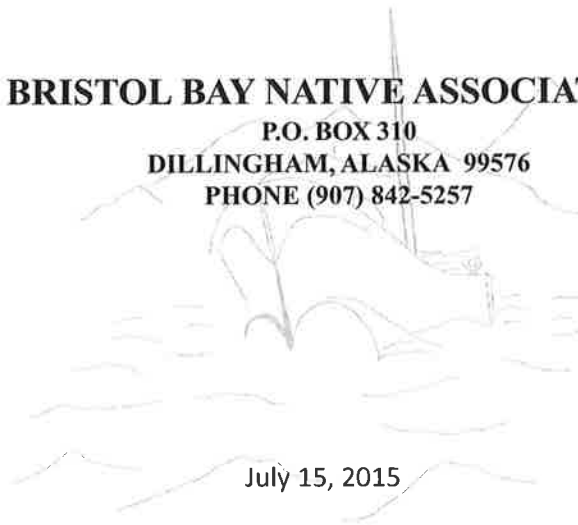
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Schubert", written in a cursive style.

Gail R. Schubert
BSNC President & CEO

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257



July 15, 2015

Tribal Councils
Served by BBNA:

Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon Honorable Don Young

Chignik Lake United States House of Representatives

Clarks Point 2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Curyung Alex.Ortiz@mail.house.gov

Egegik

Ekuk Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate

Ekwok 709 Senate Office Building

Igiugig Washington, DC 20510-0203

Iliamna Greg.Bringhurst@murkowski.senate.gov

Ivanof Bay

Re: Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act

Kanatak

King Salmon Dear Congressman Young and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan:

Kokhanok

Koliganek On behalf of the Bristol Bay Native Association, I write to express our full support of the Alaska Native
Levelock Vietnam veterans by amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to permit
Manokotak qualified veterans to apply for up to 160 acres of land pursuant to the Alaska Native Allotment Act of
Naknek 1906 (ANAA).

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Erik.Elam@Sullivan.senate.gov

Alaska Natives and Native Americans have a long and proud history of military service, enlisting in greater numbers per capita than any other racial group. Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict. At the same time the Vietnam War was being fought, our Alaska Native land rights were being settled. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 extinguished the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906. It was logistically impossible for Alaska Natives serving in the military to apply for their allotments during this time, even though they were eligible.

In 1998, Congress passed the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act (Act) to provide Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans who served between 1969 through 1971 the opportunity to apply for an allotments within 18 months of the implementation of rules pursuant to the Act. Regrettably, not every Alaska Native veteran who became eligible applied for an allotment due to communication and geographical challenges. Furthermore, the Act includes three major hurdles that prevented Alaska Native veterans from selecting and obtaining their allotments.

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Alaska Natives have a unique and spiritual connection to our lands. Allowing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to participate in the allotment program will honor their service to our country. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the content of this letter.

Sincerely,



Ralph Andersen
President & CEO



CALISTA CORPORATION
www.calistacorp.com

July 16, 2015

Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Alex.Ortiz@mail.house.gov

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Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
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Greg.Bringhurst@murkowski.senate.gov

Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Erik.Elam@Sullivan.senate.gov

Re: Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act

Dear Congressman Young and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan:

On behalf of Calista Corporation I write to express our full support of the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act, which proposes to provide equitable treatment of Alaska Native Vietnam veterans by amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to permit qualified veterans to apply for up to 160 acres of land pursuant to the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906 (ANAA).

Alaska Natives and Native Americans have a long and proud history of military service, enlisting in greater numbers per capita than any other racial group. Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict. At the same time the Vietnam War was being fought, our Alaska Native land rights were being settled. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 extinguished the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906. It was logistically impossible for Alaska Natives serving in the military to apply for their allotments during this time, even though they were eligible.

In 1998, Congress passed the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act (Act) to provide Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans who served between 1969 through 1971 the opportunity to apply for an allotments within 18 months of the implementation of rules pursuant to the Act. Regretfully, not every Alaska Native veteran who became eligible applied for an allotment due to communication and geographical challenges. Furthermore, the Act includes three major hurdles that prevented Alaska Native veterans from selecting and obtaining their allotments.

First, Alaska Native veterans could only apply if they served for at least six months between January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971 – even though the Vietnam conflict ran from 1964 to 1975. Second, veterans could only apply for land that was vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved when their use first began – meaning the land base was severely restricted by previous transfers and land designations already made. Third, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans had to prove they used the land applied for in a substantially continuous and independent manner, potentially exclusive of others, for at least five years or more – which was difficult if not impossible as a result of military service. Because of these and other obstacles, most applications submitted under the 1998 Act were denied, including all of the applications

for allotments by qualified Alaska Native Vietnam veterans in the following regions: Southeast, Cook Inlet, Chugach and Arctic Slope.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam conflict. We have lost many brave Alaska Native servicemen in the years since who would have otherwise been eligible to apply for an allotment but for their in-country service. As such, we strongly urge you to champion federal legislation to provide living Alaska Native Vietnam veterans or their heirs the opportunity to apply for a Native allotment. We further ask that you include provisions in the bill that would right the wrongs identified above, and that you work with us on a legislative strategy.

Alaska Natives have a unique and spiritual connection to our lands. Allowing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to participate in the allotment program will honor their service to our country. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the content of this letter.

Sincerely,

CALISTA CORPORATION



Andrew Guy
President/CEO



Willie Kasayulie
Chairman of the Board



Gabriel Kompkoff
CEO
Chugach Alaska Corporation
3800 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 1200
Anchorage, AK 99503

Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
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Greg_Bringhurst@murkowski.senate.gov

Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Erik_Elam@Sullivan.senate.gov

August 7, 2015

Dear Congressman Young and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan,

Chugach Alaska Corporation expresses our full support of S.1955 the Alaska Native Allotment Act (ANAA) introduced by Senator Dan Sullivan on August 5, 2015. Chugach supports amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to permit qualified veterans to apply for up to 160 acres of land pursuant to the ANAA.

Chugach has a long and proud history of military service, from our Alaska Native shareholders who have enlisted in the military to the more than two decades our corporation has served the military community through federal government contracting services. Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict. At the same time the Vietnam War was being fought, our Alaska Native land rights were being settled. ANCSA extinguished the ANAA. It was logistically impossible for Alaska Natives serving overseas in the military to apply for their allotments during this time, even though they were eligible.

In 1998, Congress passed the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act (Act) to provide Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans who served between 1969 through 1971 the opportunity to apply for an allotments within 18 months of the implementation of rules pursuant to the Act. Regretfully, not every Alaska Native veteran who became eligible applied for an allotment due



to communication and geographical challenges. Furthermore, the Act included three major hurdles that prevented Alaska Native veterans from selecting and obtaining their allotments.

- 1) Alaska Native veterans could only apply if they served for at least six months between January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971 – even though the Vietnam conflict ran from 1964 to 1975.
- 2) Veterans could only apply for land that was vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved when their use first began – meaning the land base was severely restricted by previous transfers and land designations already made.
- 3) Alaska Native Vietnam veterans had to prove they used the land applied for in a substantially continuous and independent manner, potentially exclusive of others, for at least five years or more – which was difficult if not impossible as a result of military service.

Because of these and other obstacles, most applications submitted under the 1998 Act were denied, including all of the applications for allotments by qualified Alaska Native Vietnam veterans in not only Chugachs Region but for Southeast, Cook Inlet, and Arctic Slope as well.

Chugach and Alaska Natives have a unique and spiritual connection to our lands. Allowing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to participate in the allotment program will honor their service to our country. Thank you for your support on this important issue. Should you have any questions or would like additional information about Chugach, please contact me at (907) 563-8866.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Kompkoff

CEO

DOYON, LIMITED

BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2015-37

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2387 - ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS
LAND ALLOTMENT EQUITY ACT**

WHEREAS, House Resolution (H.R.) 2387, introduced on May 15, 2015 by Alaska Congressman Don Young in the United States House of Representatives, seeks to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for the allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans under the Native Allotment Act of 1906; and


WHEREAS, an estimated 2,800 Alaska Natives missed the deadline for application for an allotment as a result of military service during the Vietnam War and the Native Allotment Act of 1906 was subsequently repealed; and

WHEREAS, Public Law (P.L.) 105-27, adopted in 1998, amended the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide Alaska Native Vietnam War veterans an opportunity to apply for an allotment, however; many Alaska Native veterans were unable to obtain allotments under the strict requirements of P.L. 105-27; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Doyon, Limited recognizes Congressman Don Young's continued efforts to provide to Alaska Native veterans the ability to obtain land promised to them under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and provide a solution to this long-standing issue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Doyon, Limited hereby expresses its support for and recommends the passage of H.R. 2387.

ADOPTED and DATED this 26th day of June 2015 in Fairbanks, Alaska.



Christopher Simon, Secretary
Doyon, Limited



Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Alex.Ortiz@mail.house.gov

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Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
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Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Erik.Elam@Sullivan.senate.gov

Re: Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act

Dear Congressman Young and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan:

On behalf of Sealaska Heritage Institute, I write to express our full support of the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act, which proposes to provide equitable treatment of Alaska Native Vietnam veterans by amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to permit qualified veterans to apply for up to 160 acres of land pursuant to the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906 (ANAA).

Alaska Natives and Native Americans have a long and proud history of military service, enlisting in greater numbers per capita than any other racial group. Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict. At the same time the Vietnam War was being fought, our Alaska Native land rights were being settled. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 extinguished the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906. It was logistically impossible for Alaska Natives serving in the military to apply for their allotments during this time, even though they were eligible.

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substantially continuous and independent manner, potentially exclusive of others, for at least five years or more – which was difficult if not impossible as a result of military service. Because of these and other obstacles, most applications submitted under the 1998 Act were denied, including all of the applications for allotments by qualified Alaska Native Vietnam veterans in the following regions: Southeast, Cook Inlet, Chugach and Arctic Slope.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam conflict. We have lost many brave Alaska Native servicemen in the years since who would have otherwise been eligible to apply for an allotment but for their in-country service. As such, we strongly urge you to champion federal legislation to provide living Alaska Native Vietnam veterans or their heirs the opportunity to apply for a Native allotment. We further ask that you include provisions in the bill that would right the wrongs identified above, and that you work with us on a legislative strategy.

Alaska Natives have a unique and spiritual connection to our lands. Allowing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to participate in the allotment program will honor their service to our country. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the content of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosita Worl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

Rosita Worl, Ph.D.
President





"WHERE THE TWO RIVERS MEET"

TANANA TRIBAL COUNCIL

PO Box 130, Tanana, AK 99777

Phone: (907) 366-7160 or 7170 Fax: (907) 366-7195

July 30, 2015

Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
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United States Senate
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Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Erik_Elam@Sullivan.senate.gov

Re: Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act

Dear Congressman Young and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan:

On behalf of Tanana Tribal Council I write to express our full support of the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act, which proposes to provide equitable treatment of Alaska Native Vietnam veterans by amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to permit qualified veterans to apply for up to 160 acres of land pursuant to the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906 (ANAA).

Alaska Natives and Native Americans have a long and proud history of military service, enlisting in greater numbers per capita than any other racial group. Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict. At the same time the Vietnam War was being fought, our Alaska Native land rights were being settled. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 extinguished the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906. It was logistically impossible for Alaska Natives serving in the military to apply for their allotments during this time, even though they were eligible.

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Alaska Natives have a unique and spiritual connection to our lands. Allowing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to participate in the allotment program will honor their service to our country. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or require further clarification regarding the content of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Curtis Sommer".

Curtis Sommer
Acting Chairman