



July 8, 2019

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Sen. Cathy Giessel
Senate President
State Capitol, Rm. 111
Juneau, AK 99801
Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov

Rep. Bryce Edgmon
House Speaker
State Capitol, Rm. 208
Juneau, AK 99801
Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov

Dear Senate President Giessel and House Speaker Edgmon,

The Alaska Federation of Natives is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Our membership includes all 12 regional for-profit corporations, all 12 regional non-profit organizations, 172 village for-profit corporations, and 191 of Alaska's federally recognized tribes. Our mission, among other things, is to advance and enhance the political voice of the Alaska Native community on matters of critical importance pending before the Alaska State Legislature.

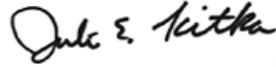
Last week our Legislative and Litigation Committee, which has delegated authority to act on behalf of our Board of Directors in between regularly scheduled meetings, adopted the enclosed resolution supporting the operating budget the Alaska State Legislature passed last month. Stated another way, AFN is asking the House and Senate to override Governor's Dunleavy's vetoes. Our request has nothing to do with partisan politics, and everything do to with the state's constitutional responsibilities to its citizens.

Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Alaska obligates the Legislature to provide for the public education (including state university system), public health, and public welfare of Alaskans. The Legislature generally fulfills this responsibility—and did so last month—by appropriating sufficient funds to administer these (and other essential services) in the state's annual operating budget. Regrettably, the Governor's almost half a billion dollars in vetoes reversed the Legislature's fulfillment of its Article VII constitutional responsibilities.

AFN strongly supports the operating budget passed by the Legislature on June 10. Please work collaboratively to reexecute your constitutional responsibilities to Alaskans by overriding the Governor's vetoes by July 12.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie E. Kitka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Julie Kitka
President

Encl. L&L Resolution 19-01, *Supporting the State's Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget as Passed by the Alaska Legislature*