



Representative Tawna Sanchez
Oregon State Legislature
Salem Oregon

February 14, 2019

Dear Representative Sanchez,

We are writing from Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood, an Indigenous Civil Rights organization originating in Alaska in 1912. In October 2017, our Grand Camp meeting was held in Portland with over 100 delegates from Alaska Tribes in attendance. This was the first meeting outside of Alaska in its 105 years of existence. At this meeting, our leaders pledged to support local tribes wherever our people were located in the lower 48, and it was rededicated in our Fall 2018 Grand Camp Meeting in resolutions regarding the renewal of VAWA and MMIW specifically.

Alaska Native peoples call the Portland Metro in particular, but all over Oregon--home. Under the most recent 2013 Violence Against Women Act, Alaska Native women were left out completely due to language regarding Native American women on or around "reservations", because we do not have reservations in Alaska. It was recently estimated that the number of MMIW in Alaska was actually higher than the lower 48 number. ANB/ANS Columbia River Camp 49 wrote resolutions which were presented at our Grand Camp in Ketchikan, Alaska this past Fall to work with Alaska organizations and Alaska legislators on renewing VAWA and declaring a state of emergency for MMIW. Our Elder Patricia Alexander from Sitka, Alaska testified to this issue in DC, this past December, on behalf of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

So, with this in mind, we ask that the Oregon legislature include language specific to naming "Alaska Native" along with Native American women in this house bill.

Our local members of the Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood Columbia River Camp 49 offer this letter of support for House Bill 2625 to study how Oregon Law Enforcement can increase protective, investigative, and reporting resources relating to missing Native American and Alaska Native women in Oregon.

We thank you for all of your work to develop and create awareness around this public health/humanitarian crises. And, we are honored to be able to support this work in any way we can.

Vincent Rhinehart
ANB President Camp 49
ANB Grand Camp Sgt at Arms

Tamzyn Wynn
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Heather J. Gurko
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