

Debra Thompson

From: Brenda Norheim <bnorheim81@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 1:09 PM
To: fortherecord@energy.senate.gov; Assembly
Subject: Alaska Natives W/O Land - Senate Bill #4891

I am writing in support of Senate Bill #4891.

This bill has the potential to create many positive outcomes in our Southeast Communities. As has been proven by Native Corporations in other communities in Southeast Alaska. And communities through out our great State of Alaska. The potential benefits would be increased jobs in our communities, increased revenue for local businesses, our boroughs and potential year round jobs, creating more opportunity and stability for our local economy. The momentum of Senate Bill could mean a win, win for the Borough of Petersburg and Tribal members alike.

This item has been worked and reworked over the years. It is time to give back to the Alaska Natives a piece of what was once theirs. The gift our elders were hoping to leave their children and grandchildren. So, we can move forward and leave the legacy they had planned on, to our future generations for many, many years to come.

My greatest wish is for our elders to know/see that this has finally been settled. As many of them were very young adults when this process started/or not even born. (And many have passed on) It saddens me that we are still going through this process. But, also gives me hope knowing it is still part of the conversation.

It's time to settle this before too many more of our elders pass.

Give them the gift they so deserve.

And I leave with this quote that touched me. (I do not remember the ladies name who said it, for credit)

"OUR BREATH IS A GIFT FROM OUR ELDERS"

We will continue for them.

Respectfully,

Brenda Norheim