



April 20, 2020

The Honorable Steve T. Mnuchin  
Secretary of Treasury  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20220  
[consult@bia.gov](mailto:consult@bia.gov)

The Honorable Tara Sweeney  
Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
[tribal.consult@treasury.gov](mailto:tribal.consult@treasury.gov)

Re: National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) letter to you dated April 11, 2020

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Assistant Secretary Sweeney:

Old Harbor is an Alutiiq village on the southeast side of Kodiak Island, Alaska. Old Harbor holds a rich culture with spiritual ties to the land, bonds of kinship and belief, respect for Elders and community, and the shared practices of a subsistence lifestyle.

The Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor is a federally recognized tribe, and was established in 1968 with a base roll of 333. The base roll has grown 650 members. The Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor is known for practicing our traditional Alutiiq culture and subsistence lifestyle. We are a community that relies on natural resources of our surrounding sea and land environment for our livelihood.

Old Harbor Native Corporation (OHNC) was established in 1973 under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). OHNC's mission is to preserve and protect the culture, values and traditions of its community, shareholders and descendants; and to work together to create economic and educational opportunities while promoting self-determination and pride. The Corporation maintains a balanced portfolio of investments in operating companies, passive partnerships and owns property in several Alaska communities (Anchorage, Denali Borough, and Kodiak Island).

We believe Congress acted with intent to include the Indian Self-Determination Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) definition of Tribes, and specifically defining tribal governments. NCAI's efforts to present Alaska Native Corporations as anything other than tribal leadership representing Alaska Native people is erroneous and inaccurate. The divisive debates regarding the CARES Act implementation are concerning and disheartening. We are extremely concerned about the attacks against Assistant Secretary Tara Sweeney, she is a strong native leader who is committed to supporting all American Indians and Alaska Natives. We support Assistant Secretary Sweeney and know she will continue to fight for all indigenous people in America.



Alaska Native communities often face unique health, safety and economic challenges that are currently compounded by COVID-19 including remoteness, limited sanitation infrastructure, and a lack of public health services. This reality is why our communities are so invested in the process and why we believe that economic development is a critical tool in combating this virus. It is similarly vital that tribally-owned entities qualify for funding, as these organizations are, and will continue to be, essential to Native communities during this unprecedented time. Alaska Native Corporations and Tribes will need the flexibility to leverage these funds to respond to the unique needs of their communities in every stage of COVID-19 preparedness, response, and recovery.

The Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor and Old Harbor Native Corporation are dedicated to support our native community members. We are united as Native people to prevent the COVID-19 virus from having a disproportionate impact on our communities. We thank you for all your hard work and efforts to support our native people in this effort. If you have any questions regarding our letter of support for Assistant Secretary Sweeney, please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia Berns at [info@oldharbor.org](mailto:info@oldharbor.org) or 907.351.8890.

Quyanaa – Thank you,

OLD HARBOR NATIVE CORPORATION

ALUTIIQ TRIBE OF OLD HARBOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl H. Marrs".

Carl H. Marrs  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Conrad Peterson".

Conrad Peterson  
President

CC: Congressman Don Young, Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan