

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks
Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting
Yupit Qanlautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk
Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak
Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

Subsistence must be maintained

Dear Gov. Steve Cowper:

Bristol Bay Native Corp. has received a copy of a letter from the Alaska Federation of Natives to you dated Jan. 2, regarding their view of the choices that the state may elect to pursue as a result of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in the Kenaitze case.

BBNC fully supports the position that AFN has taken.

The State of Alaska has been insensitive to the fine thread of survival that many of the Native people face in rural Alaska. Subsistence has offset the cash economy in many cases where there are no jobs available and none are in sight within their lifetime.

It is unconscionable to consider tak-

ing that away without any offsetting alternatives. Witness the Alaska Department of Fish and Game decision to close certain hunts in Alaska without any consideration for the socioeconomic well-being of those that are affected by these actions.

Subsistence has been the cultural nucleus of the Native people throughout the centuries. Taking that away from them is tantamount to Treblinka in Poland during World War II. We urge you to reconsider and reinstate the winter hunts.

Sincerely,
Trefon Angasan Jr.
BBNC
Anchorage

Native tribes have important rights

To the editor:

Here is something to ponder, and maybe someone will take the initiative to do something with it.

Federal executive order reserves land for "public purposes" to facilitate Native reindeer herding, education and fishing by Alaska Natives. Reserves include the Unalakleet Reserve, 100 square miles; Cape Denbigh Reserve, 75 square miles; and St. Lawrence Island Reserve, Point Hope, White Mountain, Venetie, Amaknak Island, Tetlin and Eklutna. Pre-1919 reserves include Copper Center, Fort Yukon, Kobuk River, Klukwan, Tyonek, Chilkat Fisheries, Yendistucky, Norton Bay (Elim), Akiak, Mountain Village and Tatitlek.

The reserves are subject to valid existing rights because of failure by Congress to extinguish those rights of keeping the reserves as they are even after the Alaska Natives Claims Set-

tlement Act had failed to expressly extinguish the Indian reserves of those village corporations.

Now the Congress has expressly asked for consent in order to take away the reserves.

Any Indian tribe or tribes residing on the same reservation shall have the right to organize for its common welfare, according to federal law. The tribes may adopt an appropriate constitution and bylaws, which shall become effective when ratified by a majority vote of the adult members of the tribe.

Each tribal council has been given power to make constitutions and bylaws for the interests of the tribe, as per the Alaska Native Act of 1936. Subsistence laws are no exception.

Respectfully,
Thomas S. Nusunginya
Palmer

continued on page three