

Letters to the **EDITOR**

Nanwalek stands strong

Dear Editor:

With this letter, the Village Tribal Council of Nanwalek, Alaska adamantly opposes the Speakers of the House of Representatives, Gail Phillips initiatives in appropriating the State of Alaska monies to fight and destroy (even it is considered our money too) our Native life styles, our preeminent historical traditions, our cultures, mores and heritage. We call upon the Tribal Councils of Port Graham, Seldovia, Niniilchik, Kenai, Tyonek, and all other Native villages throughout Alaska to publicize your displeasure with the Speaker of the House of the Alaska Legislature, who so brazenly is undermining our "common Indigenous Ancestral goals of self determination and home/traditional rule."

Let us again and again, remind our Governor, and all of our elected officials, that Alaska has been our Native Home for many, many years. The Czarist Russian government recognized this long before Alaska became a territory of the United States. They acknowledged our Indigenous Sovereignty, as we do even now, as divinely bestowed by our Creator. Our Heritage, our life styles is in harmony with the lands and waters on which we

live, occupy and subsist. We never invited foreigners to come and disrupt our indigenous life styles. Neither do we impose our Native ways on other people in other lands.

The very least the Legislature can do, is to appropriate equal monies, percentage wise, for our Native Villages, to defend themselves from destruction and extermination of our Native heritage.

We are citizens of the State of Alaska, and should receive equal protection of the law. This is a waste of money. This fund should be used for what our villages have been asking the State for many years, sewer systems, safe drinking water systems, improvements and or better landing strips for airplanes, and importantly, housing that meet health and safety standards. The State of Alaska has been neglecting the rural villages too long!!! Our observation of the State appropriating funds to the rural villages is: SCRAPING THE BOTTOM OF THE POT.

Sincerely,

*Vincent Kvasnikoff, Chief
Nanwalek IRA Council*