



SERVING THE  
VILLAGES OF:  
BREVIG MISSION  
COUNCIL  
DIOMEDE  
ELIM  
GAMBELL  
GOLOVIN  
KING ISLAND  
KOYUK  
MARY'S IGLOO  
NOME  
SAVOONGA  
SHAKTOOLIK  
SHISHMAREF  
SOLOMON  
STEBBINS  
ST. MICHAEL  
TELLER  
UNALAKLEET  
WALES  
WHITE MOUNTAIN

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senator Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Fax: (202)-224-5301

Via email: [Ben\\_Mallott@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:Ben_Mallott@murkowski.senate.gov)

Dear Senator Murkowski:

First of all, thank you so much for the recent subcommittee hearing you held in Savoonga regarding the housing crisis. We look forward to working with your office on possible solutions and will be following up with your staff. We really appreciate the time and consideration that you provide to your constituents, including those of us who live so far away from Washington D.C. It truly was meaningful to have you there in person.

Secondly, on behalf of Kawerak, Inc., I am urging you to vote NO to appointing Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. Kawerak, Inc. works to improve the economic, social, political, and cultural conditions for the people of the Bering Strait Region. Brett Kavanaugh's track record on rulings and opinions is of great concern to the well-being of our region, especially given that 75% of the people in our region are Alaska Native.

Specifically, we are concerned about his stance on affirmative action, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian rights, protections, and services, voting rights for minorities, protection of the environment and endangered species, and, given his record of supporting states' rights – we are especially concerned about the subsistence protection rights of Alaska Natives on federal lands and waters. Given the fact that the Supreme Court is set to hear *Sturgeon v. Frost*, - a case that calls into question control of Alaska's rivers – it is imperative that you vote NO on this nomination.

The Supreme Court appointment is a lifelong appointment. Given the potential for additional cases that affect the well-being of Alaska Natives and Native Americans coming before the Supreme Court going forward, and Mr. Kavanaugh's views on indigenous people and their rights, we cannot afford to have a justice appointed that will negatively impact our constituents, so many of who voted for you in the last election.

Thank you for providing steady leadership, and for putting Alaska before political affiliation when you are considering how to cast your vote. We are extremely grateful for the powerful representation that you provide for us and the bipartisanship that you exhibit in contemplating decisions that affect so many people. Thank you for willingness to take into consideration our viewpoints and concerns, and for having the courage to vote across party lines if it is in the best interest of your constituents.

Sincerely,

KAWERAK, INCORPORATED

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melanie Bahnke".

Melanie Bahnke, President/CEO

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