



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2025

Senate Passes HR 43 and HR 42: A Significant Step Forward for Our Communities

Anchorage, AK – The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) and the Alaska Native Village Corporation Association (ANVCA) are pleased to announce the recent passage of House Resolution 43: Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2025 (H.R. 43), and House Resolution 42: Amend Alaska Native Claims Act (H.R. 42) by the United States Senate, marking a significant achievement in our ongoing efforts to improve the lives of Alaska Natives. This momentous development reflects the essential collaboration among our congressional delegation and underscores the commitment to serving our communities effectively.

H.R. 43 aims to restore Alaska Native village municipal lands that were lost or diminished due to previous legislation and policies. This act recognizes the importance of these lands in preserving cultural identity and promotes self-determination for Indigenous communities. By allowing for the restoration and management of these lands, the legislation empowers local governance and protects vital resources, facilitating community development in alignment with traditional values and practices.

H.R. 42 focuses on amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which was originally enacted in 1971. These amendments are designed to address long-standing concerns regarding land ownership, economic opportunities, and the benefits of resource development for Alaska Native people. The updates will streamline processes and improve access to education, health care, and infrastructure by ensuring that Alaska Natives can fully participate in the economic development of their regions.

Special recognition goes to the ANVCA for its exceptional leadership and unwavering advocacy on H.R. 43. Their dedication has proven invaluable, playing a crucial role in advancing this important legislation that addresses the needs of our communities.

AFN thanks Senator Lisa Murkowski for her tireless efforts and unwavering support in advancing both H.R. 43 and H.R. 42. Her commitment to the Alaska Native community has been instrumental in navigating these legislative initiatives through the Senate.

We also thank Congressman Nick Begich for guiding both bills through the House and Senator Dan Sullivan for his strong support. The teamwork of our Alaska Congressional delegation reflects a shared commitment to advancing priorities important to Alaska Native peoples.

As we celebrate this achievement, let us continue to unite in our efforts to prioritize the needs of our constituents and work toward the betterment of our communities. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their hard work and dedication to the passage of both these critical pieces of legislation. AFN urges President Trump to sign them into law as soon as possible so we can continue making progress for our communities.

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