



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Central Council Tlingit & Haida Endorses Senator Lisa Murkowski**



Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) has endorsed Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) for re-election to the United States Senate. An announcement of the endorsement followed the unanimous adoption of a motion made during the Executive Council's meeting in Fairbanks on October 18, 2016.

"Senator Murkowski has been an effective member of Congress," the Executive Council said in a statement. "Her commitment to Alaska Natives and rural communities has been proven through her continued efforts to advance the economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of Alaska Natives. Cultural and traditional language preservation, health services, energy, education, food security, rural development – these are just some of the areas Senator Murkowski works hard to advance and protect on behalf of Alaska Native people and why we have made the decision to support her."

Since her appointment to the Senate in 2002, Senator Murkowski has become one of the most respected members of Congress on matters pertaining American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian people. She chairs the Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee which funds the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service; is a senior member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Vice Chairman and Ranking Member from 2007 – 2009) and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; and chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee which oversees the implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

"As a tribe, one of our highest priorities is the safety of our women and children," said President Richard Peterson. "We support Senator Murkowski for continuing to have a strong voice and address this issue through her work and support of the Violence Against Women Act and Indian Child Welfare Act."

**Senator Murkowski's Notable Accomplishments:**

- Shepherded the first reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in more than a decade, as well as the landmark Tribal Law and Order Act through the Senate.

- Advanced the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act.
- Advocated for Alaska Native education and Native language preservation.
- Appropriated funds to enable tribes in PL 280 states to support their tribal courts.
- Filed legislation to end a decade of impasse to support the re-designation of Saxman as a rural community for subsistence purposes.
- Advanced legislation which made it possible for more Alaska Native Corporations to make stock available to Native youth born after 1971.
- Championed the development of renewable energy projects to help lower costs in rural Alaska.

Senator Murkowski is a lifelong Alaskan whose family heritage goes back three generations. She was born in Ketchikan, Alaska and spent a lot of her childhood years in Southeast Alaska. In recognition of Senator Murkowski's strong support for the Alaska Native community, she was adopted into the *Deisheetaan* (Beaver) clan and given the Tlingit name *Aan shaawátk'í*, which means 'Lady of the Land'. She is also the first member of the Alaska congressional delegation to earn the National Indian Health Board's Jake White Crow Award for Lifetime Achievement and the National Congress of American Indians' Congressional Leadership Award.

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