



CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

320 W. Willoughby Ave., Suite 300 • Juneau, AK • 99801
907.586.1432 • Fax: 907.586.8970 www.ccthita.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2014

Tlingit Haida Central Council Endorses Senator Mark Begich

Tlingit Haida Central Council has endorsed Alaska Senator Mark Begich for re-election to the United States Senate. The Tribe's Executive Council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing Begich based on his record of commitment and accomplishments in advancing Alaska Native interests which include:

- **Alaska Territorial Guard** – Secured reinstatement of pension payments for members of the WWII-era Alaska Territorial Guard.
- **Essential Air Service** – Protected vital transportation routes and services by protecting the Essential Air Service program.
- **Indian Health Service (IHS)** – Secured permanent reauthorization of the IHS and historic full funding for contract support costs.
- **Postal Service Reform** - Fought efforts to end Bypass Mail and pushed the United States Postal Service to reverse rate increases in rural Alaska.
- **Rural Broadband** – Helped deliver over \$140 million in improvements to rural broadband.
- **Safe Families & Villages Act** – Introduced the act to give Alaska tribes resources and local control to empower communities to combat domestic violence.
- **Subsistence Bill** – Developed and secured passage of bill that overruled federal prohibitions against serving donated traditional foods in schools, hospitals, and elder care facilities.

“Senator Begich has been an effective member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and Appropriations Committee, understands the unique challenges of rural Alaska and the importance of resource development in order to build sustainable communities,” said President Richard Peterson. “We need Senator Begich to continue to fight on our behalf for tribal sovereignty, protection of our customary and traditional hunting and gathering practices, repeal of the ‘Alaska exception’ to the Violence Against Women Act, and removal of the “Alaska exemption” to allow Alaska tribes to take land into trust.”

Senator Begich was adopted into the *Tsaagweidi* (Killer Whale) clan and given the Tlingit name *Kaawusteen* in recognition of his dedication to Alaska Natives. To view a copy of Tlingit Haida Central Council's resolution endorsing Senator Begich, please visit: www.ccthita.org/government/council/resolutions.

###

Contact:

Office of the President

Raeanne Holmes, Communications Coordinator

Direct: 907.463.7368 | Email: rholmes@ccthita.org