May 10, 1971

Honorable James A. Haley
Chairman, Subcommittee on Indian Affairs
House Committee on Interior and
Insular Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As president of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indians of Alaska, I would like to submit a few comments for the consideration of the Subcommittee relative to the bills before it to settle the claims of the Natives of Alaska (H.R. 7039, H.R. 3100, and H.R. 7432).

First, I would like to express my thanks to you and the members of the Subcommittee for the opportunities you have accorded Native representatives to present our views on these bills.

Because representatives of the Alaska Federation of Natives, including myself, have testified generally respecting the several bills before the Committee, my comments will be confined primarily to certain points of particular interest and concern to the Tlingit & Haida Indians.

As I testified before the Subcommittee on May 6, 1971, the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indians is a member of the Alaska Federation of Natives and firmly supports its legislative position.

Concerning the new proposal that Secretary of the Interior Morton recently submitted to the Congress on behalf of the Administration, which has been introduced in the House as H.R. 7432, I would say that I believe it reflects a sincere desire on the part of President Nixon and Secretary Morton to provide more just