

13.

WE SHARE THE SAME ASPIRATIONS, GOALS AND AMBITIONS - A BETTER ALASKA. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE. LET US RESOLVE TO AVOID THE TEMPTATION TO TRY TO ASSIGN TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. JUSTICE IS OUR JOINT PROBLEM AND THE ALASKA NATIVE LAND RIGHTS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MEANINGFULLY WORK TOGETHER.

IN CONCLUSION I WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS ON SEVERAL MAJOR CONCERNS....WE ALASKA NATIVES HAVE HEARD COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ADVERSE AFFECTS OF PRESERVING THE STATUS QUO AS TO NATIVE CLAIMED LANDS PENDING A SETTLEMENT, AS THOUGH EXPROPRIATION OF THESE LANDS REPRESENTED AN ENLIGHTENED SOLUTION THAT EVERYONE IN GOOD CONSCIENCE COULD ENDORSE. WE REJECT FURTHER LAND LOSSES PENDING A SETTLEMENT.

WE HAVE HEARD ILL-CONCEIVED AND ILLIBERAL CLAIMS SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS ADVANCED, URGING THE ARBITRARY TAKING OF NATIVE LANDS WITH THE UNILATERAL FIXING OF THE VALUE DUE, THEREBY INTIMATING THAT MONEY CAN OFFSET AND PERHAPS JUSTIFY A TRAUMATIC AND UNJUST AND UNCONSCIONABLE DISPOSSESSION.

WE HAVE BEEN APPALLED AS WE HAVE HEARD PRESUMABLY RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS SUGGEST THAT THE ALASKA NATIVE LAND CLAIMS ARE DIVISIVE AND THAT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE AND EQUITY WILL, IN SOME UNDEFINED MANNER, SET PEOPLE AGAINST PEOPLE. I CHALLENGE SUCH STATEMENTS. IT IS NOT THE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE IN A RESPONSIBLE, STATES-MANLIKE MANNER THAT IS DIVISIVE. IT IS THE CONTINUED DENIAL OF JUSTICE TO A PEOPLE WHOSE CAUSE HAS TOO LONG BEEN DEFERRED THAT CAN PLANT THE SEEDS OF BITTERNESS, WHICH CAN LEAD TO THE DIVISIVENESS THAT NONE OF US WANT. WE CANNOT WASH OUR HANDS AND ABSOLVE OURSELVES