

Hello and welcome. My name is Louie Commack, Jr., from Ambler. I currently sit on the Maniilaq Board of Directors, RurAL CAP, Alaska Legal Service, and commissioner for Kobuk Valley Park Service. I will make my testimony very brief. Today, I would like to share some of my thoughts with you.

Western Justice imparts our Native People whether it be social, health, spiritual, or our own governance. For hundreds of years, our Tribal Governments exercise governance on these very issues and today, the western system still fail to understand our cultural ways of governing. Why is it the state system still thinks their way is still the better way. Today, many of our young people are in the State Correctional System, because the State System simply does not understand how we would do it better.

Elderly parents and grandparents suffer deeply, because of the loss of the following services:

- Hunting for the elders,
- Teaching of the cultural ways,
- Teaching of the spiritual ways,
- And the many ways a village teaches the people to survive in today's world.

As we speak today, our 11 villages in the Northwestern Alaska as Tribal Governments are landless Tribes. During the ANSA Formation, State and Federal did not consult with Tribal Governments. I feel land was taken away from the Tribal ownership and put in a State chartered entity. This is a sovereign injustice, a spiritual injustice, and has had a very negative impact on tribal land ownership. Once again, I thank you for coming to our region.