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April 19, 2024

Ryan Anderson, P.E.
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Commissioner
P.O. Box 112500
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, Ak 99811-2500

Dear Commissioner Anderson

I am writing to bring to your attention an important matter regarding a road sign in Dillingham, Alaska. Specifically, I would like to request a change to the signage currently denoting "Squaw Creek" to reflect the updated and culturally appropriate name, "Amau Creek."

As you may be aware, the name "Squaw" has historically been recognized as a derogatory term used to refer to Indigenous women in both Alaska and the lower 48 states. Given the significant cultural and social implications of this term, it is essential that we take proactive steps to rectify its usage, particularly in official contexts such as road signage.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight that the name "Amau Creek" has been officially changed and is reflected as such on plats and documents within the community of Dillingham. This change not only aligns with cultural sensitivity but also respects the wishes and identity of the Indigenous communities in our region.



Therefore, I kindly request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities initiate the process to update the road sign at Squaw Creek to accurately reflect its new name, Amau Creek. This change will not only demonstrate our commitment to inclusivity and respect for Indigenous cultures but also contribute to fostering a more welcoming and culturally sensitive environment within our community.

I understand that there may be administrative processes and considerations involved in making such changes, but I urge you to prioritize this request in recognition of its importance to our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your favorable response and cooperation in effecting this change.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Decker Sr.

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