CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

June 10, 2020

Dear Economic Stabilization Task Force,

Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) has pledged one million dollars in grant funding to Airlift Northwest to support keeping their PC 12 turboprop in Alaska. As UW Medicine's provider of medevac services, Airlift Northwest provides an essential service to the region. With the recent increase in cases, Tlingit & Haida wants to ensure that the people of Southeast are prepared and have the resources in place in the event of a COVID-19 surge. Having a range of medevac options in the event of an outbreak could be critical. If Airlift Northwest moves their PC 12 turboprop out of Southeast Alaska, it will limit the medevac options to all of the communities of the region particularly those with limited or no jet access. Some of the patients from these communities come to Juneau for care at Bartlett Regional Hospital.

In addition, Airlift Northwest has recently acquired an ISO-POD that can be used to transport suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients. This technology adds an additional layer of protection for preventing the spread of the virus during transport. In the event of a COVID-19 surge in Southeast Alaska, having multiple medevac options and the ISO-POD available will be beneficial to all of Southeast.

Tlingit & Haida requests that the Economic Stabilization Task Force recommend that Juneau match our one million dollar grant to Airlift Northwest. This will keep their PC 12 turboprop in the region and help ensure our communities have the infrastructure in place in the event of an emergency.

On behalf of Tlingit & Haida, Gunalchéesh/ Háw'aa, thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at 800.344.1432 or rpeterson@ccthita-nsn.gov

Sincerely,

Richard J. Peterson,
President