

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Afognak: Alutiiq Center Grand Opening

Congressman Young and Mayor Begich Welcome New Office Building in Anchorage,

recognize success of Native Community to Alaska's economy

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(September 5, 2006) ANCHORAGE, ALASKA: Afognak Native Corporation today held a grand opening ceremony for their new five story, state-of-the-art office building in Anchorage, Alaska.

William Hall, Chairman of the Board of Afognak Native Corporation said, "The Afognak Staff and Board of Directors have invested significant time over the last eighteen months to ensure our building accurately represents our peoples' traditional home and our Alutiiq culture. We have intertwined the Alutiiq culture in the landscaping and architecture of the building, through artwork displays and a museum." All of these elements merge to create a breathtaking monument to the strength and ingenuity of the Alutiiq people.

"The landscaping is designed to remind our shareholders of our home. We have incorporated elements from Afognak Island including spruce trees, driftwood, beach grass, and sand," Hall said. "Our 1,200 square foot museum tells the history and culture of the Afognak Alutiiq people through the eyes of our shareholders." Included in the museum are several traditional elements and regalia created by Afognak shareholders and Alutiiq artisans, as well as a 14 foot model of the Native Village of Afognak, which was destroyed in the 1964 earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

Afognak's success, and ability to construct this approximately 75,000 square foot office building, has largely been due to its growth in government contracting. Afognak's Chief Executive Officer, Dusty Kaser, spoke of the importance of the Small Business Administration's 8(a) Program, and the impact it has had on the Afognak Alutiiq people: "These preferences have been no small contributor to Afognak's most recent success, and the need for the construction of this beautiful building. In fact, with the exception of casinos, over the past decade these preferences arguably are responsible for providing more training and job opportunities, and more contributions to Native economic self-sufficiency than anything Congress has done in the past 200 years."

The Honorable Congressman Don Young spoke of the significance of the new building and what it represents for the Alaska Native Community. “The 8(a) Program was designed to develop an economic base for Alaska Natives. This building is a symbol of the successfulness of your Corporation and the outstanding results of the 8(a) Program,” Young said.

Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich discussed the forward looking design of the building. “Afognak’s Alutiiq Center is a gift to the city of Anchorage and is a statement of the success of the company and its impact on the state’s economy,” said Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich. “And the building’s connection to a city park greatly enhances our sense of community.”

Founding Afognak Board member Mary Fern also presented at the ceremony, speaking about the joys of her childhood growing up in Afognak Village without electricity or running water to the early years of running Afognak Native Corporation. “How far we’ve come as a people! From typing our first annual meeting minutes on a typewriter to this,” Fern said with excitement.

The Alutiiq culture was integrated throughout the ceremony, including an Alutiiq prayer, lighting of the traditional oil lamp and performances by the Alutiiq Anguyiit Dancers.

Chairman of the Board, William Hall, cut the ribbon with a ceremonial ulu knife. A reception and tour of the new building and museum immediately followed the ceremony.

The Alutiiq Center houses Afognak’s Anchorage based operations and serves as the company headquarters for Afognak’s government contracting arm, Alutiiq, LLC. ASCG represented the owners of the building throughout the design/build process. Venture Development Group managed the design and construction, landscape and architecture was created by Koonce Pfeffer Bettis, Inc., and the building was constructed by Neeser Construction, Inc.

Afognak Native Corporation, a village corporation formed under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, is headquartered in Kodiak, Alaska and is owned by almost 700 Alaska Native shareholders, in perpetuity. Today, Afognak and its subsidiaries employ approximately 4,300 people in 45 states and 8 countries with operations in: Security & Law Enforcement; Operations & Maintenance Services; Logistics Support Services; Information Technology & Technical Support Services; Engineering & Information Solutions; Construction and Youth Training Services.