

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
907-465-3500
fax: 907-465-3532



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450
fax 907-269-7461
www.Gov.Alaska.Gov
Governor@Alaska.Gov

Governor Bill Walker STATE OF ALASKA

August 13, 2015

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Lew,

It is with great conviction and admiration that I nominate Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich (July 4, 1911-December 1, 1958), Alaska Native civil rights leader, as the woman to be featured on the redesigned United States ten dollar bill. Elizabeth Peratrovich was a driving force for equal rights and an instrumental influence as Alaska became the first organized government under the United States flag to end legal discrimination – nearly two decades before the much-celebrated civil rights movement in the Lower 48 and passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. She is a true hero of American democracy

As an Alaska Native woman of the Tlingit Nation, Elizabeth Peratrovich tirelessly championed equality and achieved a lasting legacy that has impacted all Alaskans. At a time when open discrimination against Alaska Natives was legal and common in housing opportunity and many aspects of public life in Alaska, Elizabeth used every opportunity to stand for the rights of her people. As Grand President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, along with her husband Roy, Grand President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, Elizabeth became an iconic figure in Alaska.

After years of unsuccessful efforts to eliminate discrimination, enduring cruel treatment, and the common posting of signs in public declaring “No dogs or Natives Allowed,” Elizabeth Peratrovich became the first woman ever to address the Alaska Territorial State Senate regarding the inferior treatment and living conditions of Alaskan Natives as second class citizens. In February 1945, she quietly, courageously, and boldly spoke as the last to testify before a vote was to be held on the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 (and following the defeat of similar legislation in 1943). Confronted by absolute opposition, she spoke of her own personal experiences, and those of friends, her children, and others, transforming her staunch adversaries into a captive audience. By all accounts of those present, Elizabeth’s obvious intelligence, composure, and presence were powerful.

Throughout the course of testimony, one territorial senator asked: “Who are these people, barely out of savagery, who want to associate with us whites, who have 5,000 years of recorded civilization behind us?” Elizabeth boldly replied, “I would not have expected that I, who am barely out of savagery, would have to remind the gentlemen with 5,000 years of recorded civilization behind them of our Bill of Rights.” She further stated “No law will eliminate crimes, but at least you, as legislators, can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak of your intent to help us overcome discrimination.” Elizabeth Peratrovich’s decisive and impassioned speech and advocacy, based on the democratic principles enshrined in America’s founding

The Honorable Jacob Lew
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documents, is credited as the deciding factor that gained the passage of the territory's Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945. In the end, only Elizabeth and Roy testified in support of their bill, which had been staunchly opposed. The Territorial Governor at the time and eventual United States Senator, Ernest Gruening, declared that it was Elizabeth's powerful presence in the Capitol halls every day that made possible the passage of the first piece of anti-discrimination legislation in any state or territory since the Civil War.

Elizabeth's progressive thinking continued to be a catalyst for improvements at home and abroad. In Alaska, she outlined a program to improve the health and sanitation for Alaskans; she fought for and achieved integrated education for Native Alaskan children. Peratrovich sincerely demonstrated her commitment to treating all with dignity by raising money for the American Red Cross War Fund. Her endeavors to provide care packages for prisoners of war were recognized in a letter from the Territorial Chairman of the Red Cross War Fund, citing the meritorious service that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood provided for the Armed Forces.

Throughout her life, Elizabeth continued to be very active in Native American affairs, serving as the Alaskan representative to the National Congress of American Indians and becoming a member of its executive committee in 1955. She also went on to serve as a member of Alaska's constitutional committee in the effort that resulted in Statehood for Alaska.

Though many Americans are likely unaware of this hero of democracy, Elizabeth is well-known to all Alaskans, and much more could be said about her. We celebrate her contributions to freedom and equality each year on February 16th. It is a day for all people to reaffirm belief in the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and in the principles of social equality and respect for the individual within all communities. A gallery in the Alaska State Capitol bears her name, and we are proud to educate the many visitors from around the country and the world about Elizabeth as they visit each year – many of whom are moved to tears as they learn of her epic struggles and successes

It is with heartfelt honor that I nominate Elizabeth Peratrovich, a woman of distinction, honorable character, and action, as the face of the new United States ten dollar bill. Honoring her in this way would provide an opportunity for all Americans to learn about and celebrate a hero of democracy and equality for all. I have enclosed letters of support from other Alaskans who stand with me in urging your strongest consideration of Elizabeth Peratrovich.

Should you or your staff have any questions or desire more information, please feel free to contact my office at 907-465-3500

Sincerely,



Bill Walker
Governor

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Don Young, United States House of Representatives



Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott
STATE OF ALASKA

August 10, 2015

Jacob J. Lew, Secretary
US Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Lew,

The face of the next U.S. ten dollar bill, and the first woman on any bill, should be an American of uncommon courage with a story that resonates with all of our citizens. I cannot imagine a finer woman than Elizabeth Peratrovich of Alaska. Elizabeth was a determined Tlingit woman, who, in a time of deep segregation and racism, bravely lifted her eloquent voice demanding equal rights for all. Her story underscores our nation's singular democratic strength, which is the right of every individual to have a voice in their lives and their children's future.

Imagine if you will a sparse committee room where the Alaska Territorial Senate was meeting in 1945. The men were debating equal rights and a bill that would prohibit racial discrimination in Alaska. The legislative custom at the time was to open the floor to anyone present who wished to speak on the bill. A diminutive woman, Elizabeth Peratrovich, was representing the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS). ANS was formed in 1912 to address racism against Alaska Natives. Elizabeth, the final speaker of the day, could have been intimidated by the racist comments of some of the senators during the hearing. But she opened her eloquent speech about prejudice and injustice by saying, "I would not have expected that I, who am barely out of savagery, would have to remind gentlemen with five thousand years of recorded civilization behind them of our Bill of Rights." She then went on to speak about what life was like for her and other Native Alaskans as second-class citizens. Her speech was met with thunderous applause and the Senate passed the Alaska Civil Rights Act by a vote of 11 to 5.

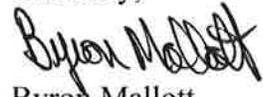
I was a toddler in the village of Yakutat when Elizabeth Peratrovich stood up for me and every Alaska Native child. Her legacy of courage helped me and countless others grow as leaders of our people and have an equal voice in our state and our country. Her voice has echoed through the generations of not only Native Americans, but all U.S. citizens who have experienced the crippling effect of discrimination.

In 2014 I was elected Lt. Governor --Alaska's first statewide elected Alaska Native leader in the Executive Branch. I owe my life's inspiration in meaningful part to this woman. As an Alaskan and an American I can think of no higher tribute to the ideals of our country than putting a face to the struggle for equality of all Americans.

When you see Elizabeth's portrait, her dignified and calm demeanor with piercing eyes and determined look, you are seeing all women who have stood up to injustice and inspired a generation of leaders to stand up for the rights of all. She demonstrated at a critical moment in time how a single individual, as a representative of a powerful public goal, can cause historical gain.

Enclosed you will find additional letters of support and documentation of her legacy. I ask you to seriously consider choosing Elizabeth Peratrovich as the first woman to grace the United States ten dollar bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Byron Mallott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Byron Mallott
Lieutenant Governor



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

August 11, 2015

Jacob J Lew, Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew,

I would like to thank you for considering Elizabeth Peratrovich for the new ten dollar bill. As you may already be aware, Mrs. Peratrovich was instrumental in combating the societal racism and prejudice that ran rampant in Alaska's capitol in 1941. Her activities in the Alaska Native Sisterhood were pivotal towards the lobbying efforts during a particularly racially charged era in Alaska's history. She was both empowered by and empowered those around her to stand up against the institutional racism in a unified effort. She was able to build working relationships with political leaders and rarely took any credit for the influential role she played during the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act in 1945.

Mrs. Peratrovich and her husband Roy moved her family to Juneau from the small community of Klawock in 1941, where the racism against Alaska Natives was more apparent and socially acceptable by the community. Despite the fact that Alaska Natives were taxed equally as citizens, and yet were denied basic representation in the State government and were not allowed to attend public schools. And even though Alaska Natives in Southeast Alaska were called to service during World War II, but they were not welcome as equals in every day Alaskan society.

Mrs. Peratrovich began her strategized lobbying efforts for an anti-discrimination movement in accordance with Governor Gruening and other supportive senators. As President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, she created a lobbying group of five Alaska Native women from around the State that met with various State Senators and was successful in swaying votes. Her strategy was to bring as many Alaska Native women into her organization for lobbying efforts, starting with the existing networks of friends and families that are so strong in Alaska Native communities.

After many attempts, the Anti-Discrimination bill was brought to the floor of the Alaska State Senate in 1945. There was testimony from various entities and elected officials, the most offensive was Allen Shattuck who exclaimed, "Who are these people, barely out of savagery, who want to associate with us white with 5,000 years of recorded civilization behind us?"

Mrs. Peratrovich was the last person to speak to the bill, and the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act is believed to be directly credited to her powerful testimony. She began her compelling testimony directly speaking to Allen Shattuck, "I would not have expected that I,

who am barley out of savagery, would have to remind gentlemen with 5000 years of recorded civilization behind them, of our Bill of Rights.”

It is obvious that Mrs. Peratrovich was a distinguished civil leader and deserves the recognition of her contributions for civil rights for Alaska Natives and women. The placing of Mrs. Peratrovich on this bill would be a great honor not only for her memory but for any persons who fought or continually fight for civil rights. I would like to thank you again for your consideration of Elizabeth Peratrovich for the ten dollar bill.

Gunalchéesh – Háw’aa



Richard J. Peterson

President



August 10, 2015

Jacob J. Lew, Secretary
US Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Re: Support of Nomination of Elizabeth Peratrovich on \$10 Bill

Dear Secretary Lew:

The Alaska Federation of Natives is pleased to provide this letter of support of the nomination of civil rights leader Elizabeth Peratrovich to be the new face of the US \$10 bill. It is indeed time for a woman to prominent on our nation's paper currency. How appropriate and resonant would it be to feature a Native American woman who worked on behalf of all!

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), a non-profit advocacy organization, is the principle voice of Alaska Natives in dealing with critical issues of public policy and government. Our mission is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community. Our membership includes 12 regional Native corporations, 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs, 165 federally recognized tribes, and 146 village corporations.

Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich (1911-1958) was a courageous Tlingit Alaska Native who dedicated her life to the cause of equality and justice for all Alaskans. She overcame prejudice, disadvantage and blatant bigotry to advocate for equal rights legislation. Her activism was instrumental in passing Alaska's Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, the first of its kind in the United States since the Civil War era. Signed ten years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, it is considered by many to be an early milestone in the national civil rights movement that would sweep the country in the decades to come.

Born and raised in Alaska, Peratrovich attended college in Bellingham, Washington, where she met and married her husband Roy in 1931. When they moved to the territorial capital of Juneau in 1941, they were shocked by the blatant discrimination against Alaska Natives similar to the Jim Crow policies toward African Americans in the Deep South. For example, many storefronts and businesses displayed signs stating "No Natives Allowed" and "No Dogs, No Natives." Many Natives faced unemployment and poverty due to segregation and discrimination in housing and public schools.

In February 1945, the Territorial Senate met as a Committee of the Whole to discuss equal rights and a bill that would prohibit racial discrimination in Alaska. Many senators spoke

against equal rights, pointing out that because Natives were not as civilized as whites there should be separation of the races. Senators refused to recognize that there was a problem and said that the law would merely be a boon for lawyers. The tide was going against the legislation until Elizabeth Peratrovich took the floor.

The legislative custom at the time was to open the floor to anyone present who wished to speak on the bill. Peratrovich was present as a representative from the Alaska Native Sisterhood. She was the final speaker of the day. She opened her eloquent speech about prejudice and injustice by saying, "I would not have expected that I, who am 'barely out of savagery,' would have to remind gentlemen, with five thousand years of recorded civilization behind them, of our Bill of Rights." Peratrovich spoke about what life was like for her and other Alaska Natives as second-class citizens.

When asked whether she thought the law would not end racial discrimination, Peratrovich responded, "Do laws against larceny, rape and murder prevent those crimes? But at least you as legislators can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak your intent to help us overcome discrimination." Her speech was met with thunderous applause. The Senate then passed the Alaska Civil Rights Act by a vote of 11 to 5. In 1988, the Alaska Legislature established February 16th, the anniversary of the signing of the Anti-Discrimination Act, as "Elizabeth Peratrovich Day." Today the holiday is celebrated throughout the state with speeches, plays and films.

Elizabeth Peratrovich is revered today by Alaskans Native and non-Native alike for her courage and eloquence.

On behalf of our membership, thank you for considering Elizabeth Peratrovich as the face of the US \$10 bill. If you have any questions or require further clarification about the content of this letter, please contact me directly at (907) 274-3611 or nevakitka@aol.com.

Sincerely,
ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES



Julie Kitka
President

Cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan
Congressman Don Young
AFN Board of Directors

Metcalfe *Communications*

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary of the U.S. Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

August 10, 2015

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write to you in support of placing the image of Elizabeth J. Peratrovich on the US \$10 bill.

I am a historian specializing in the history of the indigenous peoples of Southeast Alaska. The University of Alaska Press recently published my book, "A Dangerous Idea: The Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Fight for Indigenous Rights." Elizabeth and her husband Roy Peratrovich, the most prominent advocates of equal rights for Alaska Natives, were among the subjects of my research.

The Territory of Alaska's Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 was a landmark accomplishment in the long struggle to achieve civil rights for all citizens of the United States. As with the civil rights legislation passed by Congress two decades later, Alaska's accomplishment was largely the work of those, like Mrs. Peratrovich, who had suffered the indignities of race prejudice.

While the struggle by the Native people of Alaska to achieve equal rights took decades and involved many, Elizabeth Peratrovich dedicated her life to win passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act and rightly deserves her place of prominence among those people throughout the history of the United States who have worked to achieve equal rights, liberty, and justice for all.

Elizabeth Peratrovich — beautiful, elegant, and articulate — serves as an admirable icon for one of those major steps forward that have advanced human rights. I strongly encourage you to give Elizabeth Peratrovich, and by extension, all Native Americans, much deserved recognition.

Sincerely,



Peter Metcalfe



August 10, 2015

Jacob J. Lew, Secretary
US Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Lew,

We are pleased to provide a letter of support for the nomination of Elizabeth Peratrovich to be the new face of the US \$10 Bill to accompany Alaska Governor Bill Walker's official nomination.

The Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) and the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) were founded in 1912 and 1915 to pursue civil rights for Alaska Natives. In 1940, Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich were elected Grand Presidents of the ANB and ANS. They moved to Juneau and experienced firsthand blatant discrimination against Alaska Natives. Segregation was everywhere – in the schools, restaurants, housing and even the churches. They contacted the territorial governor of Alaska for assistance which was not successful. They wrote letters to the local newspapers and Alaska congressional delegate. By 1943 they were fighting for the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act, which did not pass in the territorial legislature. As the legislature met every other year, they continued the fight until 1945 when the legislature next met. Elizabeth and Roy lobbied for the passage of the bill in the halls of the state capitol building. During discussion of the bill, Roy testified for its passage. The debate continued and Elizabeth was recognized to testify. Her speech was pivotal, and ended the debate. The bill was voted on and passed. It is significant because it was the first anti-discrimination bill passed in the United States, and occurred twenty years before the national civil rights movement began. The Peratrovichs remained active in the community and the family later relocated out of state so Roy could continue university studies returning some years later.

In 1988 the state of Alaska created "Elizabeth Peratrovich Day" which is a state holiday celebrated February 16th each year. The date commemorates the signing of the anti-discrimination bill. In addition, at the capitol building the House of Representatives gallery was renamed the Elizabeth Peratrovich Gallery in her

ANB Grand Camp • 4660 Thane Rd. • Juneau, Alaska 99801

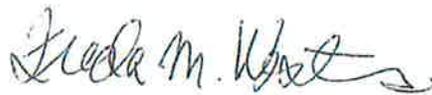
honor. Also in Juneau there is a hall named Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall located in the Andrew Hope building. In downtown Anchorage, a park is named the Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich Park to honor both of their efforts. Another recognition of Elizabeth Peratrovich is the Elizabeth Peratrovich award established by the Alaska Native Sisterhood.

Elizabeth Peratrovich is a distinguished Alaska Native who is held in the highest esteem and we are honored to nominate her to be the new face on the United States ten dollar bill.

Sincerely,



Eric Morrison
ANB Grand President



Freda Westman
ANS Grand President



Marcelo Quinto
ANB Camp 70 President



Barbara Fujimoto
ANS Camp 70 President