

Trust Land: We see this issue as a very important issue for all the federally recognized sovereign Tribal governments in Alaska, especially in terms of economic development projects. We know that there has been a lot of conversation about putting land into trust. We have also heard that some have said, that Alaska Tribes do not want and/or need to have that ability. As a federally recognized sovereign Tribal government we would like to say, for the record, that we agree that any Tribal corporation that is legally considered a Tribe, in order to be eligible for some funding opportunities, should not be eligible to put land into trust. It is also our feeling that Alaska Tribes that have federally recognized sovereign Tribal governments should have the option to put land into trust, instead of a blanket restriction against all Alaska Tribes. We respect that other Alaska Tribes may not want this option at this time, but we do want this option. We also feel that it would be very beneficial to "real" federally recognized sovereign Tribal governments to have the ability to put land into trust. Right now, it is very hard for federally recognized sovereign Tribal governments in Alaska that do not have large funding streams of discretionary funding to start economic development projects on any of their lands, because the land will quickly get taxed right out from under them. Also, by not allowing Tribal corporations to put land into trust and allowing federally recognized sovereign Tribal governments to have the ability to put land into trust, maybe the Tribal corporations would be more compelled to work with the federally recognized sovereign Tribal governments, that they were supposedly formed to support. This would be our vision. The way that current legislation has been implemented, Tribal corporations are basically autonomous from their federally recognized sovereign Tribal governments and their federally recognized sovereign Tribal government's wants, wishes, and concerns are an afterthought, if thought of or considered at all.

Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
Rick Harrison
Vice-Chairman