

For Immediate Release
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Pete Reappointed to US Arctic Research Commission

Washington, DC - Mary Ciuniq Pete, of Bethel, Alaska, has accepted President Obama's 4-year reappointment to the US Arctic Research Commission. A Yup'ik Eskimo, born and raised in Stebbins, Alaska, and now residing in Bethel, Pete represents the needs and interests of Arctic indigenous residents for the Commission, specifically addressing subsistence practices and issues including noncommercial and traditional uses of fish and wildlife resources and the impact of climate change on those resources.

"The Commission's work is critical to keep the focus on the Arctic during the rapid and unsettling changes happening in the region," said Pete. "I am privileged to continue to represent the perspectives and interests of Arctic residents and communities and to advocate for cultural identity and linguistic perseverance and vitality."

"Mary's knowledge about rural Alaska has been instrumental in advancing the Commission's work, particularly concerning two of its five primary goals: to improve arctic human health and to assess indigenous languages, identities and cultures," said Fran Ulmer, USARC's chair. "We've worked together on State of Alaska issues and in the University of Alaska system where Mary has served, since 2005, as Director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Kuskokwim Campus in Bethel. Throughout this time, she has consistently raised the banner on behalf of Alaska natives, keeping their concerns and needs at the forefront of her agenda. I look forward to continuing our association in advancing Arctic research."

Prior to 2005, Ms. Pete served in the Division of Subsistence for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a Subsistence Research Specialist (from 1984 to 1993) and then as Director (from 1996 to 2005). In this capacity, she managed an applied social science research program that implemented the State of Alaska's subsistence hunting and fishing priority law. Ms. Pete also conducted and directed research on subsistence issues in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region. From 1993 to 1996, Ms. Pete was an instructor at the UAF Department of Alaska Native and Rural Development.

The USARC (<http://www.arctic.gov>) is an independent federal agency that provides advice and guidance on Arctic research. The commissioners are a presidentially appointed advisory body of scientists and representatives from industry and Arctic indigenous residents.

The Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 established the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. USARC's mission is to develop and recommend US Arctic research policy to the President and to Congress and to build cooperative links in Arctic research within the federal government, with Arctic residents, the State of Alaska, researchers and international partners. Visit the USARC at www.arctic.gov and subscribe to our daily electronic newsletter, the "Arctic Update," which provides useful information about recent events, conferences, research initiatives and international news.

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