

KOOTZNOOWOO, INC.
2024 PROXY STATEMENT

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### **VOTE YOUR PROXY AND WIN!**

Every shareholder who votes a valid proxy ballot by the voting deadline will be entered to win! Winners will be randomly selected and announced at the 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

 ② 1ST PRIZE \$700 (ONE WINNER)

 ② 2ND PRIZE \$500 (TWO WINNERS)

 ③ 3RD PRIZE \$250 (FOUR WINNERS)

 ④ 4TH PRIZE \$100 (TEN WINNERS)

 ② 5TH PRIZE \$50 (TEN WINNERS)

**Every Shareholder who votes a valid proxy will receive a \$50 voting incentive!** 

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

### To the Shareholders of Kootznoowoo, Incorporated:

We are pleased to notify you that the 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. (Alaska Time) in Angoon, Alaska at the Angoon Elementary Gym.

Only Class A Shareholders of record at the close of business on April 16, 2024, will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. The stock transfer records of the Corporation will be closed from that date until after the Annual Meeting.

Shareholders may vote their proxy online at VoteKootznoowoo.com or sign and return a printed corporate proxy via mail, fax, or email, as a quorum of Shareholders holding a majority of the shares is necessary to elect directors and conduct other business at the meeting. If you wish to vote online during the meeting, you may do so even if you have previously voted. Your last dated proxy will be deemed to be revoked by your online vote. You may re-vote your proxy at any time before the stated deadlines. You may call the Inspector of Elections at (907) 563-2727 if you have any questions regarding voting or to confirm your proxy has been received.

The Corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, which govern the Annual Meeting, are available for inspection. A Shareholder List, as of the record date, is also available for inspection. To coordinate a hard-copy review of these documents, please contact the Corporate Office during regular business hours at (907) 790-2992, Monday through Friday.

Along with this Notice, enclosed you will find:

- 1. Board of Directors Proxy Statement/Solicitation;
- 2. Corporate Proxy Card (to be signed, dated, and returned according to the instructions herein); and
- 3. The 2023 Annual Report, which includes the Corporation's Audited Financial Statement year ended December 31, 2023.

The Inspector of Elections for this meeting is Hutchings & Associates. Proxies may be voted online, mailed, faxed, or emailed to the Inspector at:

Hutchings & Associates Attn: Kootznoowoo, Inc. P.O. Box 241167

Anchorage, Alaska 99524-9846

Phone: (907) 563-2727 ext. 1

Fax: (907) 290-5737 Email: info@ha-ak.cpa

Shareholders are encouraged to mail their proxies well in advance of the filing deadline. If you have not mailed your proxy to the Inspector of Elections by June 05, 2024, it is recommended that you vote online at www.VoteKootznoowoo.com or fax or email your proxy to the Inspector. All paper proxies must be received by the Inspector by 5:00 p.m., Alaska Time on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Eunice E. James Board Chair

Eunice & James

### **APRIL 26, 2024**



The Board of Directors of Kootznoowoo, Incorporated hereby solicits your proxy in the form enclosed with this Statement for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. (Alaska Time) or at any postponements or adjournments thereof. The persons named as proxyholders in the form are Directors Melissa M. Kookesh and Sharon Love, who have been designated as proxyholders by the Board of Directors.

Voting rights are vested in the holders of Class A Common Stock (hereinafter referred to as "Common Stock") of Kootznoowoo, Incorporated. Rules governing conduct of the Annual Meeting are in the Corporation's Bylaws. To coordinate a hard-copy review of these documents, please contact the Corporation at (907) 790-2992 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

The Board of Directors proposes to bring the following matters before the Shareholders at the 51st Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

- 1. Election of two (2) directors for three-year terms; and
- 2. Transaction of any other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment(s) or postponement(s) thereof.

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The Kootznoowoo, Incorporated Board of Directors consists of seven (7) directors. There will be two (2) directors elected at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders who will each serve for a three-year term ending in 2027, or until their successor is elected and qualified.

Pursuant to the Corporation's election procedures, there is not a Board sponsored slate of candidates. All candidates have been given the same opportunity to have their names listed on the Corporate Proxy and to provide statements for inclusion in this Proxy Statement. No candidate is endorsed or supported by the Board as all candidates are considered independent.

**Voting Directed:** You may cast a specific number of votes for one or more nominees listed on the Corporate Proxy or for an individual you write-in. Because of cumulative voting, you have the number of votes equal to the number of voting shares you own, times two (x 2), the number of directors to be elected at the Annual Meeting. The Bylaws require that directed votes go only to the nominee(s) you have indicated, even if those nominees later withdraw, and that they may not be redirected to another candidate.

**Quorum Only.** If your proxy is duly signed and no votes are cast, your proxy will be counted for the purpose of achieving quorum for the Annual Meeting ONLY. No candidate will receive any of your votes.

When the Corporate Proxy is voted online or returned via mail, fax, or email, and is properly executed and received prior to 5:00 p.m. (Alaska Time) on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, the shares represented thereby will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the instructions you provide. The proxyholders will vote your Corporate Proxy as directed unless the designated nominees withdraw or otherwise become unavailable for any reason. The proxyholders currently know of no reason why any of the nominees listed are likely to become unavailable.

ALL PAPER PROXIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE INSPECTOR BY 5:00 p.m. (ALASKA TIME) ON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024. PAPER PROXIES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

ONLINE VOTING WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 12:00 p.m. (ALASKA TIME) ON THE DAY OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024.

Alaska law and Kootznoowoo, Incorporated's Bylaws allow candidates to be included on the Corporate Proxy and Proxy Statement, provided the candidate meets certain requirements. A Shareholder who is interested in running for election to the Board of Directors may have his or her name included in the Corporate Proxy and Proxy Statement if, among other requirements, he or she submits a completed questionnaire for Independent Candidates to the Corporation and executes an Independent Candidate's Agreement.

The candidates listed in this Proxy Statement will be formally nominated for election as Directors by the Board Chair at the Annual Meeting. The two (2) nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to the Board of Directors.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Management does not presently know of any other matters that will be presented for action at the Annual Meeting. However, if any other matters properly come before the Annual Meeting, the proxyholders will have the authority to vote the shares represented by all effective proxies on such matters in accordance with their best judgment.

#### PLEASE PROMPTLY COMPLETE YOUR PROXY

Shareholders can vote online at www.VoteKootznoowoo.com. Or, for those voting via a paper proxy, be sure to date the Corporate Proxy the day that you sign it. Sign your name exactly as it appears in the corporate records. When signing as a custodian for a minor, or as an executor, administrator, power of attorney, trustee, or guardian, please give full title as such. For example, if your name appears as John J. Jones Sr., or if your name appears as Thomas F. Tracy as custodian for Mary T. Tracy, please sign Thomas F. Tracy as custodian for Mary T. Tracy.

Any shareholder holding Class A shares of Kootznoowoo, Incorporated, regardless of the number of shares held, who votes online during the Annual Meeting or submits a valid proxy by the deadline will receive a \$50 voting incentive payment. Shareholders who are signed-up for direct deposit will receive the voting incentive via direct deposit. Kootznoowoo, Incorporated is offering this voting incentive payment to encourage all shareholders to exercise their right to vote.

The voting incentive payment will be paid one time only to shareholders who complete and submit a valid proxy. After voting a proxy, shareholders who wish to do so may change their vote by submitting a new proxy either online or by paper ballot, however, they will not receive another voting incentive payment.

Shareholders are encouraged to visit the shareholder portal at MyKootznoowoo.com to verify that their contact information is correct and to avoid any delays in receiving their voting incentive payment.

Every Friday, voting incentive payments will be processed and mailed from the Corporate Office.

#### **2024 BOARD CANDIDATE**



### **Vivian P. Demmert**

AGE: 32

CITY/STATE: Juneau, Alaska

Current Employer/Occupation & Business experience during the past five years:

Tribal Child Support Case Specialist (Feb. 2023-Present), Tribal Child Support Case Admin Clerk II (Nov. 2022-Feb. 2023); Tribal Child Support Case Technician (Aug. 2021-Nov. 2022), Tlingit & Haida, TCSU; Admin Clerk II (Mar. 2020-Aug. 2021), Tlingit & Haida VTRC; DCM Admin Assistant, Tlingit & Haida Regional Housing Authority (Dec. 2018-Mar. 2020).

Current/previous positions within Kootznoowoo, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries:

None

Directorship(s) held for other entities:

None

**Higher Education:** 

University of Alaska Southeast (Attended one semester,

Sept. 2009)

#### **Candidate Statement:**

Kootznoowoo 2024 board candidate

Current employer. Tlingit & Haida Case Specialist 2020 to present

My name is Vivian Demmert.
Vivian Demmert yoo xat dnwasaakw
Yeil naax xat sitee
Kaagwaantaan aya xat
Dleit kaa yadi aya xat
Aangoon Kwaan dax aya xat

Angoon will always be home to me. I lived in Angoon until I was 21. I am a shareholder of Kootznoowoo, my mother Connie Croasmun was a shareholder and past employee for Kootznoohoo. Now my 4 year old daughter Madison is a shareholder.

My father John Croasmun Sr lived in Angoon for years and helped raise us there while he was a mechanic for the City of Angoon.

In my free time, I take my 4 year old daughter Madison outdoors to beach comb, gather Hudson Bay tea, pick berries and kayak. I am currently teaching her how to bead because it is a good coping skill to learn for our children and has our culture involved with her upbringing.

I am humbly requesting your support and vote to serve Kootznoowoo shareholders. I would like the opportunity to work towards advancing well-being, economic stability and ensuring a bright future for Kootznoowoo and the shareholders by seeking internal and external opportunities that support Kootznoowoo and its shareholders wherever our shareholders are at. Thank you for your consideration and taking the time to read what I have to say.



### Albert H. Howard

AGE: 55

CITY/STATE: Angoon, Alaska

Current Employer/Occupation & Business experience during the past five years:

Director of Transportation, Angoon Community Association (Sept. 2023-Present); Water Plant Operator, Angoon City Office (Oct. 2022-Sept. 2023); Whale Watching Boat Captain, Icy Straight Point (April-Sep. 2022); Deckhand, FV Buck n' Ann (Dec. 2021); Grants Administrator (Angoon Community Association (June 2019-April 2021)

Current/previous positions within Kootznoowoo, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries:

Kootznoowoo, Inc. Board of Directors (2015-Present)

2023 Board Meeting Attendance:

88%

Directorship(s) held for other entities:

None

#### **Candidate Statement:**

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the shareholders. They have always been a high priority for me.

With carbon, I changed the percentage in the resolution. Changing from ten percent to twenty percent to go into the Kootznoowoo Permanent Fund Settlement Trust (KPFST). The board of directors supported that friendly amendment.

I will continue to look for profitable investment opportunities for our corporation and not sit idly by. Here are opportunities I presented to the board including the purchase of the Juneau Car Rental. Unfortunately, it was not presented to the board. Another opportunity was when I worked at ISP as a whale watching captain. There, I did research to find out what it would cost the corporation to purchase a whale watching vessel that could operate out of Hoonah and provide revenue to our corporation. My supervisor thought that was a great idea and was willing to submit their financial information once our corporation signed a nondisclosure agreement. It would have brought in \$500,000 a season, unfortunately, nothing became of it.

With your support, and if elected to the board, I will create a committee for investments and business opportunities, so no more opportunities pass our corporation by. I will continue to look for profitable business opportunities for our corporation. I would also like to put back twenty percent of all profits into KPSFT, which will enable us to pay bigger dividends.

Albert H. Howard

#### **2024 BOARD CANDIDATE**



## Pamela A. James

AGE: 68

CITY/STATE: Anchorage, Alaska

Current Employer/Occupation & Business experience during the past five years:

Sterile Processing Tech II, Alaska Native Tribal Health

Consortium (Dec. 2018-Present)

Current/previous positions within Kootznoowoo, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries:

Kootznoowoo, Inc. Board of Directors (2005-2008;

2009-2012; 2014-2017)

Directorship(s) held for other entities:

None

**Higher Education:** 

SST Travel Schools of Alaska

### **Candidate Statement:**

I am Pamela A James. 68 years old. I am a Kootznoowoo shareholder of original shares. I was born and raised in Angoon. My parents were Paul and Maggie James. I am mother to 6 children. Grandmother to 14 grand children and I have one great granddaughter. I went to Mt. Edgecumbe H. S. graduating in 1974. I work for Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium since 2010. I did serve as Board of Director on the Kootznoowoo Board for 3 separate terms. My attendance to the meetings as director on all three terms was 99%. I am asking for your vote once again as I would like to serve as your director. Thank you in advance for your support.



### **Tiadola Rose Silva**

AGE : 27

CITY/STATE: Juneau, Alaska

Current Employer/Occupation & Business experience during the past five years:

Wellness Court Manager (Dec. 2023-Present), Child Suport Specialist (Sept.-Dec. 2023), Higher Education Specialist (July 2022-Sept. 2023), Tlingit & Haida

Current/previous positions within Kootznoowoo, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries:	None
Directorship(s) held for other entities:	Tlingit & Haida Youth Commission, 1st Vice President (Feb. 2021-Present)
Higher Education:	Northwest Indian College, Bachelor of Science, Native

### **Candidate Statement:**

Hello shareholders! My English name is Tiadola Silva, my Tlingit name is Glúdas. My Tlingit name was given to me by my late great grandfather, Peter Jack Sr, of Angoon. I was raised in Angoon by my parents Jeremy Martin & Juanita Silva. My grandparents are John Jr. and Harriet Silva, Leroy and Carol Martin. My great grandparents are Roy and Evelyn Martin, Peter Sr. and Ethel Jack, William & Ann Samato, John Sr. & Maria Silva. I have one daughter Aria Emma, she just turned 1 and a wonderful fiancée Kendrick.

Currently, I work at Tlingit & Haida Central Council as the Wellness Court Case manager. My job is not an easy one but nonetheless fulfilling. I work with youth aged 14-18 who are on a wellness journey to living a healthy, sober life.

In my own time, I serve as the 2st Vice President of Tlingit & Haida's youth commission board. This is my fourth year in this position. In this position I have gained a tremendous amount of leadership skills from leaders and mentors from all over the world. I have already put these skills to use with my job.

I am a former recipient of Kootznoowoos higher education scholarship (2015-2020). I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Native Environmental Science and an Associate of Science degree in General Science.

I strongly believe with my advocacy for our people, my educational background in science and education and my prior history of leadership roles, I would fit well into this role.

I kindly ask for your support in the upcoming Kootznoowoo election. Gunalchéesh, Haw'aa!

### **DIRECTORS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE IN 2025**



### Mary Jean Duncan (71)

Angoon, Alaska

**Current Occupation & Employer: Retired** 

Business Experience Over the Past 5 Years: Elementary School Teacher, Chatham School District

Positions & offices presently/previously held with Kootznoowoo, Inc. and its subsidiaries: Kootznoowoo, Inc. Board of Directors, Vice Chair (2022-2023), Corporate Secretary (2023-Present)

**2023 Board Meeting Attendance: 100%** 

Directorships held for other entities: None



### Eunice E. James (63)

Juneau, Alaska

Current Occupation & Employer and Business experience over the past 5 Years: Family Caseworker II, Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska - Tribal Family & Youth Services Department

Positions & offices presently/previously held with Kootznoowoo, Inc. and its subsidiaries: Kootznoowoo, Inc. Board of Directors, Board Chair (2022-Present)

**2023 Board Meeting Attendance: 100%** 

Directorships held for other entities: None



### Melissa M. Kookesh (47)

Juneau, Alaska

Current Occupation & Employer: Tribal Liaison, Alaska Broadband Office, State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

Business experience over the past 5 years: State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Legislative Liaison/Special Assistant to the Commissioner (2022-2023); Alaska State Legislature, Legislative Aide (2014-22).

Positions & offices presently/previously held with Kootznoowoo, Inc. and its subsidiaries: Kootznoowoo, Inc. Board of Directors (2016-Present), Board Chair (2016-2022), Treasurer (2022-Present).

**2023 Board Meeting Attendance**: 95%

**Directorships held for other entities:** None

### **DIRECTORS WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE IN 2026**



### Frank Jack III (50)

Angoon, Alaska

Current Occupation & Employer and Business Experience Over the Past 5 Years: Miner/Building Maintenance, Hecla Mining Company-Greens Creek.

Positions & offices presently/previously held with Kootznoowoo, Inc. and its subsidiaries: Kootznoowoo, Inc. Board of Directors, Vice Chair (2022-Present); Treasurer (2017-2022).

2023 Board Meeting Attendance: 92%

Directorships held for other entities: None



### Sharon Love (58)

Juneau, Alaska

Current Occupation & Employer and Business experience over the past 5 Years: State of Alaska Commission on Post Secondary Education, Accounting Tech III

Positions & offices presently/previously held with Kootznoowoo, Inc. and its subsidiaries: President/General Manager, Kootznoowoo, Inc. (2014-17); Kootznoowoo Corporate Secretary (2011-14); Board of Directors (2017-20; 2023-Present); Kootznoowoo Elders Trust, Trustee (2019-20)

**2023 Board Meeting Attendance**: 100%

**Directorships held for other entities:** Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council, Member; Kootznoowoo Permanent Fund Settlement Trust, Chair; Alaska Tribal Spectrum, Policy Board Member

# INFORMATION CONCERNING DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES & OTHER MATTERS

Current remuneration distributed or accrued and future remuneration contributed by the Corporation and its subsidiaries during its last fiscal year (January 1 through December 31, 2023) on behalf of all compensated directors or officers for services in all capacities to the Corporation and its subsidiaries is as follows:

2023 Board Compensation:			Key Employee Compensation and	
	<u>Fees</u>	<b>Medical</b>	Other Remuneration:	
Ella Bennett	\$6,000	\$565	Thomas E. Wilbur, President & CEO, \$225,00	
Mary Jean Duncan	\$6,000	\$0	riioinas E. Wiibui, i resident & OEO, \$223,00	
Albert Howard	\$5,758	\$0	Jonathan Wunrow, Executive Director of	
Frank Jack III	\$6,000	\$345	Tourism & Natural Resources, \$147,435	
Eunice E. James	\$6,000	\$0	J. Keith Greene, Director of Finance, \$115,000	
Edwell John Jr.	\$3,000	\$505	Edwell John Jr., Business Analyst, \$85,000	
Melissa M. Kookesh	\$6,000	\$0		
Sharon Love	\$3,717	\$0	Martha Henniger, Shareholder Relations Manager, \$49,343	
			Manager, 945,040	

### **Total 2023 Remuneration of Officers, Employees, and Directors:**

Kootznoowoo, Incorporated Directors are each paid a director's fee of \$500 per month. They are also eligible to receive medical reimbursements of up to \$2,500 per fiscal year which for Directors runs from July 1-June 30. Directors do not receive meeting fees. Director Sharon Love began her board service in June 2023 and Albert Howard was reappointed to the board in July 2023.

#### RELATIONSHIP WITH INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Altman Rogers & Co. serves as Kootznoowoo, Incorporated's independent certified public accountants. Professional services performed during the year by Altman Rogers & Co., as the Corporation's independent accountants, consisted of audit services in connection with the audit of the Corporation's financial statements, and non-audit tax and other professional services. The total of the audit for 2022 was \$37,779. The independent accountant is also contracted to provide tax services for 2022 that includes income tax filings, research, and related consultations. For these services, Altman Rogers & Co. will receive \$4,500 for federal tax returns and \$1,800 for the state returns that the Corporation is required to file.

# INFORMATION CONCERNING DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES & OTHER MATTERS

Continued



#### SOLICITATION

The expense of this solicitation of Proxies, including the cost of preparing, printing, and mailing this Notice of Meeting and Proxy Statement will be borne by the Corporation. In addition to soliciting Proxies by mail, the Corporation may conduct supplemental solicitations by fax, personal solicitation, radio, newspaper, social media, other forms of advertising, or direct solicitation by member of the Board of Directors and volunteers unknown at this time.

Except for the \$50 voting incentive payment, which will be paid as explained in this statement, the total amount to be spent on the solicitation of proxies is estimated to be approximately \$25,000. These estimates do not include salaries and wages for regular employees and officers of the Corporation. Voting incentives will be mailed from the Juneau Corporate Office each Friday throughout the annual election.

Gunalchéesh for making your vote count!

### **ONLINE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

KOOTZNOOWOO IS PLEASED TO OFFER ONLINE VOTING TO SHAREHOLDERS WHO WISH TO VOTE THEIR PROXY ELECTRONICALLY. ONLINE VOTING IS SAFE, EFFICIENT, AND CONVENIENT.

To vote online, please proceed through the following steps:



### Go to www.VoteKootznoowoo.com

- Shareholders may also access the link through the www.MyKootznoowoo.com shareholder portal.
- You may access the portal through your smart phone, tablet, or computer.



- A Enter the five digit PIN that is listed on your paper proxy ballot with no dashes or spaces.\*
- **B** In the SSN box, enter the last four digits of your Social Security Number.
- C Once you have entered the login information, click the "Login" button to enter the portal.

\*If you need your PIN, please contact the Inspector of Elections at (907) 563-2727





#### **VOTE DIRECTED:**

You do not need to select a separate box to vote directed.

#### **OPTION A:**

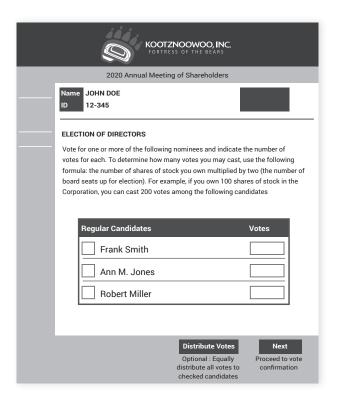
If you would like to equally distribute your votes between multiple candidates, select the box next to their name and then click the "Distribute Votes" button at the bottom of the page.

#### **OPTION B:**

Go to the candidate(s) that you would like to vote for and type in the number of votes you would like to cast in the "Votes" box.

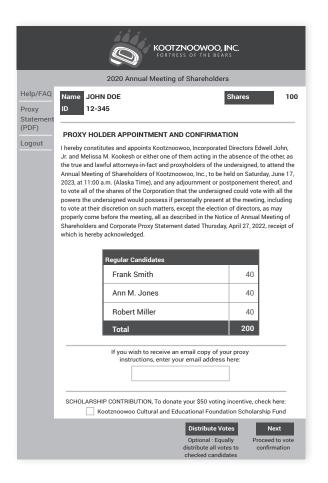
#### **VOTE QUORUM ONLY:**

Check their "Quorum Only" box under the candidate list.





- A Review your entries to ensure that your voting information is correct.
- B Enter the email address in the box to where you would like your voting confirmation receipt sent.
- c If you wish to donate your \$50 voting incentive to the Scholarship Program, check the Scholarship Contribution box. To finalize your online vote, click on the "Vote" button at the bottom of the page.
- Please note that this acts as your proxy signature and submits your proxy.



## **VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.VOTEKOOTZNOOWOO.COM**



- 8585 OLD DAIRY ROAD, SUITE 201 JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
- **©** (907) 790-2992

- www.kootznoowoo.com