

Prince of Wales Communities

June 27, 2010

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski

United States Senate

709 Hart Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Via Fax: 202-224-5301

Re: "Sealaska lands bill", S.881

Dear Senator Murkowski,

Our communities on Prince of Wales and Kosciusko Islands within the Thorne Bay Ranger District have repeatedly expressed their support for continued management and implementation of the 2008 TLMP by the U.S. Forest Service.

We would like to continue working to create sustainable multiple use that recognizes the needs of all users.

These communities support the conveyance of Sealaska Corporation's remaining land selections within, and only within, the existing ANCSA core townships established in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act as amended.

All of us are on record as opposing S.881.

The latest revision by your staff from June 25, 2010, which was conveyed to none of our communities, is still unacceptable.

Without maps, we cannot give comments on specific changes. We do urge you to fulfill your pledge and commitment to transparency and scientific management.

In 1975, Sealaska's President, John Borbridge, asked Congress to finalize their land selections inside the 10 village corporation 16(a) withdrawal areas.

We think President Borbridge and Congress were correct in designating these locations in the 1975 amendment to ANCSA, and that a revisiting of this question now in S.881 is not fair, because future sites and other issues raised in this bill have far reaching consequences for the entire state.

This legislation could trigger a reopening of the lands claims question within Alaska, which was settled prior to the introduction of this bill.

We hope you have considered this consequence.

The lands near our communities are vital for our continued existence. We strongly urge you to withdraw S.881 from further consideration in the Senate.

We are therefore in opposition to enactment of your June 25th revisions to S.881.

Our objections range from the general, affecting all of our communities, to the specific affecting some of them.

We limit ourselves to the general objections to the land you propose deeding to Sealaska.

- **Old growth timber selected on Prince of Wales and adjacent islands invalidates the Tongass Land Management Plan by upsetting TLUMP's protections for habitat critical to prevent the listing of the wolf and goshawk as endangered.**
- **Sealaska's selections will likely trigger the Endangered Species Act which will jeopardize any future economic opportunities associated with timber harvest.**
- **Selection of "futures" areas by Sealaska will negatively impact existing business activities already using the public resources.**
- **Selection will reduce opportunities for both subsistence, recreational hunters, and fishermen.**
- **Access provisions still give Sealaska discretion to bar movement across their lands.**

The lands selected in the June 25th revision are vital for our continued existence and should not be transferred to Sealaska. We strongly urge you to withdraw S. 881 from further consideration in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Edna Bay

Heather Richter, President

Port Protection

Judy Magnuson Port Protection, Secretary



Point Baker

Chairperson Roy Z Hoffman Secretary - David Squibb
Vice Chair ~~Tony~~ Treasurer - Kristina Jackson

Thorne Bay

James H. Gould

Naukati


ANDREW A. RICHTERS VICE PRES. 

Cape Pole

Carin S Richter Gregory P. Richter
Carin S Richter Gregory P. Richter

Hollis

Budd Burnett, President, Hollis Community Council

Whale Pass

Greg Cook WPCA Secretary -

Cc:

Senator Jeff Bingaman

Senator Mark Begich

Representative Don Young

Governor Sean Parnell

John Katz, Office of the Governor

Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner ADF&G

Thomas E. Irwin, Commissioner ADNR

Daniel Sullivan, Alaska Attorney General

Rick Schikora, Chair, Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas

Stan Leaphart, Ex. Dir., Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas

Sen. Gary Stevens, Alaska Legislature, Senate President

Rep. Mike Chenault, Alaska Legislature, Speaker of the House

Alaska Outdoor Council

Territorial Sportsmen