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REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CHENAULT SPEAKER OF THE ALASKA STATE HOUSE SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 115: *"An Act relating to the transfer of public land from the federal government to the state and the disposal of that land; and providing for an effective date."*

House Bill 115 enacts the Transfer of Public Lands Act. The bill requires that the United States to transfer title to public lands to Alaska on or before January 1, 2017. This bill would also provide that if the state transfers title to public lands to which it received title from the federal government under the Transfer of Public Lands Act, the state shall retain 50% of the net proceeds received by the state and pay 50% of the net proceeds the state receives to the federal government.

Although there are a number of state and federal constitutional issues regarding the provisions contained within the bill, this bill was introduced since the 25 year deadline from the time Alaska was admitted into the Union as provided within the Statehood Act. PL 85-508 is long past. I believe there is a breach of contract as well as a breach of good faith since the state is still entitled to and awaiting the transfer of the remaining 5.5 million acres. Thus far the state has received patent to about 99.5 million acres.

The state has 10.9 million acres of selections from which to receive its 5.5 million acres of entitlement as well as 10.2 million acres of top-filings that may eventually become selections should applicable withdrawals be lifted. These withdrawals come in numerous varieties of federal action and processes. Two common executive branch actions that create withdrawals are Public Land Orders (PLOs issued by the Department of the Interior and Executive Orders issued by the President.

At this time according to the Department of Natural Resources, there are approximately 222 million acres within Alaska under federal ownership.

This bill is modeled after a Utah house bill, HB 148.