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Our Culture Unites us; Our Land Sustains us; Our People are Prosperous

February 13, 2018

The Honorable Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
State of Alaska Legislature
House Fisheries Committee

Dear Chairwoman Stutes,

Ahtna, Inc. would like to express opposition to House Bill 272 that proposes to create a state park in the Tangle Lakes Area.

We are very concerned about the Alaska economy and feel that yet another new park in our state would be detrimental to the economic development opportunities in the Ahtna region and the overall state of Alaska.

It will restrict land use, will prevent mineral development, hinder tourism and interfere with our customary and traditional hunting practices. While the bill sponsor and supporters have good intentions, our experience has shown that this type of legislation only serves to further restrict land use and resource development so essential to a healthy society. Alaska has so little land that is not currently locked up in parks, preserves and critical habitat, we need to be very cognizant of the need to maintain the small multiple use areas remaining in the state. In addition, this type of restriction would hinder the formation of a borough as it takes a significant land base out of the borough land selection pool.

We do not recommend that this bill be forwarded out of committee.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michelle Anderson'.

Michelle Anderson, President

cc: Senator Click Bishop
Representative David Talerico
Representative George Rauscher