

CHARLES GRAY

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15 March 2018

Subject: Senate Bill 199

Dear Senate Transportation Committee Members,

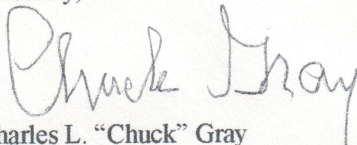
I am writing in support of Senate Bill 199 to open limited access to private land owners along the Dalton Corridor. Currently, mining claim owners and oil and gas prospectors can pass through the corridor but not land owners. Surely, owners of fee simple land obtained under the Federal Homestead Act should be as entitled to traverse the corridor in the same manner as an owner of a temporary mining prospect.

In 1967, I filed an application for a Headquarters Site under the Federal Homestead Act of 1898. I eventually obtained a land patent north of Wiseman and approximately eight miles east of what is now the Dalton Highway, long before there was a highway and corridor. My access, summer and winter, was primarily by aircraft. After many years of use, the property is now in the hands of my friend Russ Vanderlugt who does not own an airplane. He and his family use the area more for recreation than hunting and would like to access the property occasionally by snow machine in the winter, but are prohibited.

Russ Vanderlugt is currently a student at UAF working on a PhD in Arctic Studies. He has researched all pertinent maps and resources with BLM and DNR assistance to ascertain how many property owners might be affected along this section of the Corridor who own land obtained under federal homestead laws, and the conclusion is approximately six.

Please consider adding legitimate property owners to those who can cross the Corridor. It will not be a land rush, but a matter of fairness.

Sincerely,



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