

From: Cogs Alaska [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 8:33 AM
To: Rep. Kevin McCabe; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Thomas McKay; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Jesse Sumner; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Genevieve Mina
Subject: HB 332 Sale of Alaska Railroad

HB 332

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 332 the Sale of the Alaska Railroad.

Before any sale of the Alaska Railroad should be contemplated the Alaska Legislature will need to look into the clouds on personal property titles which were created when the Alaska Railroad accepted a patent from the US Government along the RR right-a-way.

My family is the 2nd owners of the remainder of a US Patented Homestead located along the Eielson Branch of the RR.

The Patent for our property was filed by Mr. Carl Finnel 06/20/1946.

On 01/28/1947 Mr. Finnel was sent a letter from the War Department stating that the Alaska Railroad would "traverse" his property. (the spur line from Fairbanks to Eielson AFB)

In 1949 Carl Finnel received his final Patent from the US Government for the full 160 acres. On 09/15/1969 Hector & Jeannette Therriault purchased the remainder of the Finnel homestead including the areas which the Alaska Railroad traverses.

As you are aware of, the Alaska Railroad was transferred into state ownership thru ARTA the 1985 Alaska Railroad Transfer Act. The Act contained section 1203 which addressed unresolved claims of valid existing rights. Now the Alaska Railroad has been issued a patent for its right-a-way which lists my family's property—property upon which a US Patent had already been issued, (creating an inverse take?).

This issue of a second patent being issued for property that has a preexisting patent would need to be addressed before any Sale or offering for Sale of Railroad right-a-way should be considered.

Bonne' (Therriault) Woldstad
COGS Citizen of Our Great State
Turning the Gears of Government