

February 12, 2020

Senate Resources Committee
Room 205, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senators,

I support HB 122 am, which recognizes the social and historical significance of the Pribilof Islands cemetery located in Funter Bay on Admiralty Island, Alaska.

I have been a property owner in Funter Bay since 1989, with approximately three acres of land that abuts the cemetery in question on the northeast side. As such, I am very familiar with the cemetery and the lands surrounding it.

I know of no potential resource conflict on the lands described in HB 122 am. There are no mineral prospects that have ever been claimed or developed on the specific lands described. Patented mining claims have existed on the Mansfield Peninsula of Admiralty Island since the 1930's, but the nearest ones are on the south side of the bay and have experienced little or no production since they were established. The timber resources on not are not considered commercially valuable, consisting mostly of smaller spruce and hemlock stands with large areas of blueberry brush, bog meadows and other low-lying vegetation.

The current US Forest Service plan for Admiralty Island (2016 TLUMP Forest Plan) recognizes the Mansfield Peninsula as semi-remote recreation in its land use designation, further recognizing that the dominant public use of this part of the island is for recreation and not resource development.

I believe It is in the broad public interest to add such an area of historical significance to the state Funter Bay Marine Park unit.

Sincerely,



Joel Bennett
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