



*Congress of the United States*  
*House of Representatives*  
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 7, 2014

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE  
REPUBLICAN  
POLICY COMMITTEE

Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Alaska State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing to express my support for SJR15, opposing designations in Alaska. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input regarding SJR15 and thank you for your leadership and steadfastness in protecting the rights of Alaskans.

As you know, Alaskans remain unconvinced that the proposed Beringia International Park will actually benefit those who live in the region. To the contrary, the most direct impact is likely to be another layer of federal bureaucracy that serves only to restrict Alaskans' rightful access to, and lawful activities on their public lands.

My staff has met with representatives for the Shared Beringia Heritage Program and I signed a letter to Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell and Secretary of State, John Kerry last October expressing my concern over this concept. To date, nothing has changed. In fact, I have not yet received a response from Secretary Jewell on the matter. The proposed "sister park" arrangement, with its cross-border collaboration and cooperation defined by the MOU, continues to present several potential problems for Alaskans, and local communities still stand to receive no direct benefit to my knowledge. I have not received any assurance from this Administration that Subsistence activities nor access to resources are adequately protected. New limitations are still likely to deprive Alaskans rather than foster economic opportunities, particularly with regard to resource development.

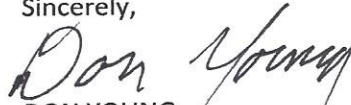
In my view, international influence has been excessive in crafting this proposal while local, State and Alaska Native participation has been insufficient. Although the Department of the Interior has made cursory attempts to address these concerns, it is difficult to fathom how additional bureaucracy will do anything but further slow and complicate decisions by federal agencies in the Bering Strait region. Accordingly, Alaskans continue to communicate to us their valid apprehension over negative impacts an international arrangement could have. It is also my view that the proposed MOU could be designed as an administrative "taking" of lands without the approval of Congress, once again, violating the "no more clause" of ANILCA.

Please be assured that I will continue the fight against the over-reach of our federal government as well as any proposal such as this that would allow further intrusion by not only our own government, but that of an international entity. SJR15 supports this view and will assist me in advising my colleagues in

Congress as well as the Obama Administration that Alaskans will not stand idly by while more lands are subjected to increased federal bureaucracy.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this very important matter and thank you for your continued dedication to the matter. I look forward to working with you and all in the Alaska State Legislature.

Sincerely,

  
DON YOUNG  
Congressman for All Alaska