

Stan Leaphart  
1311 O'Connor Road  
Fairbanks, AK  
March 27, 2021

Senator Josh Revak, Chairman  
Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 105  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Revak:

I am writing in support of SB101 which would extend the termination date of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas in Alaska.

I was hired by the original Commission in August 1982. I worked as a research analyst until February 1984 when I was appointed as the Commission's Executive Director. I served in that capacity until July 1999 when funding was lost. From July 2008 until August 2014, I again served as the Commission's Executive Director. Finally, I was member of the Alaska State Lands Advisory Group, which was an advisory group to the Commission.

The original Commission was created in 1981. As stated in one of the Commission's early annual reports: "The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas was established in 1981 by the Alaska State Legislature to protect the rights of Alaskans to continue the traditional uses of federal lands throughout the State. The need for an official State agency to oversee the management of federal lands in Alaska was created primarily by the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980. ANILCA placed 124 million acres of land in Alaska into federal conservation units, and outlined specific use requirements and restrictions for those areas."

Legislation of the scope and nature of ANILCA was unprecedented. Not only were millions of acres put into conservation system units, but those conservation system units were to be managed much differently than their lower-48 counterparts. With exceptions for some older park units, access by snowmachine, airplanes, motorboats, non-motorized surface transportation was authorized for traditional uses and for travel to and from villages and homesites, even in designated wilderness. This was a significant departure from similar units outside of Alaska. National preserves and national wildlife refuges were open to sport hunting unless specific regulatory action was taken to close them. ANILCA provided a preference for subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife on all federal lands. Hundreds of mining claims, Native allotments, and other private inholdings, as well as State and Native Corporation lands, were encompassed in the new and expanded units. The potential for conflict between land users, land owners and

federal land managers was great. The Commission was designed, in part, to lessen those conflicts.

During the 1980's the Commission was heavily involved with the initial implementation of ANILCA. Federal land management plans were being written for all the conservation system units, Forest Service wilderness areas, and wild and scenic rivers created or expanded by the statute. Along with the dozens of management plans, policies were being adopted and regulations implementing specific provisions of ANILCA were being promulgated. These included regulations for access into conservation system units and for use of cabins within national park units and national wildlife refuges. ANILCA also mandated studies for additional wild and scenic rivers, a scenic highway, and reviews of lands within national parks, wildlife refuges and national forests for possible additional wilderness designations.

In conducting our reviews and preparing comments on the various management plans, studies and regulations, the Commission worked closely with the State ANILCA Program and other state agencies. The Commission also worked with the Alaska Land Use Council (ALUC) and its Land Use Advisors Committee (LUAC) until both ceased operation in 1990. The Commission held several joint meetings with the LUAC. Commission staff also worked with federal agency staff and planners and attended numerous federally sponsored meetings throughout the state to hear firsthand the concerns and views of the public.

However, the Commission's primary focus was working directly with the public to identify possible problems with the plans, regulations and policies being adopted by the federal land management agencies. The Commission heard testimony from the public at its regular meetings and also sponsored public meetings on various issues throughout the state.

For example, when the National Park Service issued proposed regulations for the use and constructions of cabins within park and preserve units, the agency held public meetings in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. Determining that holding meetings only in urban areas was inadequate, the Commission held public meetings in Eagle, Glenallen, Kotzebue and Cold Foot to identify concerns of cabin owners and incorporated those concerns into comments submitted to the agency.

In 1990, the National Park Service indicated it was going to close Glacier Bay to commercial fishing. The Commission, in cooperation with the agency, held a series of public meetings to gather input from commercial fishermen and affected communities on the possible impacts of this closure. Later, Commission staff participated in a working group consisting of state and federal agencies, commercial fishermen, environmental organizations and regional residents in an effort to keep the bay open to commercial fishing.

Commission staff regularly provided assistance to individuals who were having problems or conflicts with federal land management agency policies and regulations or permitting requirements. In a number of instances staff helped individuals prepare and submit permit applications for cabin use or access to their inholdings. In other cases, staff was able to act as an intermediary or to facilitate meetings between members of the public and federal managers.

Another example of public outreach was the formation of an advisory group that helped identify management issues and concerns on the Tongass National Forest. The Southeast Advisory Group's (SAG) membership included representatives from the timber industry, commercial fishing industry, the regional Native Corporation, local government, sport fishing interests, the environmental community, the mining industry, and the general public. The group developed and submitted to the U.S. Forest Service, through the Commission, a series of resolutions addressing regional concerns about management of the Tongass.

More recently, the Commission formed the Alaska State Lands Advisory Group (ASLAG). That group was charged with exploring the viability of transferring management and/or ownership of federal public lands in Alaska to the State of Alaska. The group prepared a report to the Commission, which then drafted a petition encouraging the transfer of certain federal lands to the State of Alaska. The petition was transmitted to the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska State Legislature.

ANILCA became law just over 40 years ago. It has been amended numerous times. Also during those 40 years land management plans, regulations, policies intended to implement the statute have been adopted, revised, and rewritten - sometimes consistent with the letter and the spirit of the law and sometimes not. While ANILCA may be the primary statute affecting management of the federal lands in this state, others such as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) also have significant effects. Because the State of Alaska and many of her citizens are directly impacted by the management of the federal lands, which comprise some 60% of the state, it is essential that these management activities be closely monitored, problems identified and solutions to those problems found. The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas has in the past and can continue in the future to be a useful organization to assist in that effort. I encourage the passage of SB101. Thank you.



Stan Leaphart  
Fairbanks, AK

Founded 1975

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# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Click Bishop, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Bert Stedman, Co-Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska Legislature

Re: Senate Bill 101, An Act extending the termination date of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska

Dear Co-Chairs Bishop and Stedman, and members of Senate Finance:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to support Senate Bill 101, an Act extending the termination date of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas (CACFA) in Alaska.

RDC is a statewide trade association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas, and tourism industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC has been supportive of CACFA since its inception shortly after the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. CACFA's purpose is to determine if federal land management decisions are consistent with federal law and Congressional intent; to make recommendations on matters relating to those determinations; and to prevent loss or erosion of property, access or other valid rights of Alaskans.

RDC agrees with the conclusion of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee's May 2020 Audit that there is a continuing public need for CACFA. We also concur with the recommendation that the Commission's termination date be extended to 2029. Lastly, we support providing for appropriate funding for the program to maximize CACFA's effectiveness.

RDC urges members of this committee to swiftly support passage of SB 101. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Marleanna Hall  
Executive Director

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
907-276-0700 • resources@akrdc.org • akrdc.org





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April 12, 2021

Senator Josh Revak, Chair  
Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: AMA support for SB101: Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA)

Dear Senator Revak,

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to comment in support of SB101, "an Act extending the termination date of the Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska."

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

For many years, CACFA has successfully monitored and defended the State's interests from federal regulation and management actions. Today, Alaska's need for the CACFA mission is now perhaps greater than ever. Anticipating challenges at the federal level, this year AMA elected to approve the following policy position: *"Oppose federal encroachment on States' rights, such as the use of preemptive federal veto actions and unnecessary permitting requirements and the purchase of State lands by the federal government which prevents the development of mineral resources."*

AMA agrees with the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee's 2020 audit outlining the continuing public need for CACFA. We urge the committee to pass SB101, which accomplishes the top priority of extending the Commission's termination date to 2029, and also to obtain funding to maximize the Commission's effectiveness at a time it is sorely needed.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski  
Executive Director





Council of  
**Alaska Producers**

**Support for SB101**  
**Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal**  
**Management Areas (CACFA)**

April 2, 2021

Senator Josh Revak, Chair  
Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Revak and members of the Senate Resources Committee,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) is writing to support SB101, "An Act extending the termination date of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

Formed in 1992, CAP is a non-profit trade association that works to inspire Alaskans to realize a shared goal of sustainable mineral production, providing economic and social benefits to our communities and the people of Alaska. CAP represents the interests of Alaska's five large metal mines and several advanced projects, informing members on legislative and regulatory issues, supporting and advancing the mining industry, and educating members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues.

For many years, the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska (CACFA) operated effectively in monitoring the effects of federal regulation and management decisions. CAP agrees with the conclusion of the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee's May 2020 Audit that there is a continuing public need for CACFA. We also concur with the recommendation that the Commission's termination date be extended to 2029.

Thank you for hearing this bill. We encourage the Resources Committee to pass it from committee quickly.

Sincerely,

Karen Matthias  
Executive Director



## Alaska Outdoor Council

310 K Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 264-6645 Fax: (888) 932-3353  
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March 26, 2021

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Senator Josh Revak and Senate Resource Committee members,

The BLM Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (RMP) that is open for public comment at this time is the latest and one of the best reason why the Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA) is sorely needed.

CACFA was the only conduit for Alaska's public to provide substantive comments on federal land/water management plans to federal agencies who were adopting management plans lasting for 15-20 years in many cases on ten's of millions of acres.

CACFA members are appointed by Alaska's Governor and Alaska Legislators to represent Alaskans who work, gather public resources, and recreate on 60% of Alaska lands under federal management. CACFA staff and Commissioners had access to state Departments (DNR, DOT&PF, ADF&G, DEC) responsible for gathering data of resources health and abundance, plus access to the Alaska Department of Law staff familiar with both federal and state law regarding resource management in Alaska. Armed with sound scientific data and knowledge of federal and state law CACFA commissioners were better able to serve Alaskan who were being treated unfairly by federal land managers. CACFA's record of helping Alaskans with problems working, gathering public resources, and recreating on federal lands/waters is well document on record.

CACFA has been shackled for years do to lack of state funding. Now with management of millions of acres within the Central Yukon RMS planning area up for major changes in what uses will be allowed for years to come Alaska's public can only count on state agencies to comment on their behalf.

Often in AOC's history of advocating for the Alaska public to access federal lands under current laws counting solely on the state agencies has not been in outdoor folks best interest. Without the latest scientific data on public resources and expert knowledge of the law that CACFA had access to NGOs like the Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) can only provide support for our membership to participate on federal lands. AOC comments on proposed federal management plans are heavily out weight by National Preservation NGOs time and time again, conservation groups alone can not do enough.

Alaska's outdoors folks who access federal public lands/waters need CACFA help. AOC asks that SB101 pass out of the (S)Res Committee as written and on to passage into law this session.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sincerely,

Rod Arno

Public Policy Director  
Alaska Outdoor Council

Caleb Martin

Executive Director  
Alaska Outdoor Council

*"Protecting your Hunting, Trapping, Fishing and Access Rights"*  
*The Official State Association of the National Rifle Association.*

**From:** Charlie Lean <[charlie@nsedc.com](mailto:charlie@nsedc.com)>

**Date:** March 28, 2021 at 1:13:35 PM AKDT

March 28, 2021

Dear Senator Revak,

I am writing to express my support for extending CACFA's sunset date to June of 2029. Of Course, I hope for a level of funding that will allow CACFA be fully functional during the extension. As a member for over ten years, let me explain why the State needs CACFA.

CACFA is an advisory group not a regulatory body. Our members are chosen for their knowledge of both federal and Alaskan legislation. We have personal experience in access and land use issues. Our executive directors have been of the highest quality with a level of dedication to the state few could equal. During my tenure, we have fielded questions of what actions did CACFA take to address.....? The answer is often our advice or our coaching. We are known for pointed questions of agency personnel which examine their authority or motivations. This is intended as constructive criticism and too often it must be repeated to overcome bureaucratic momentum. Our members do turnover due to frustration or just the toll of time. This leads to constant renewal, which brings new ideas, energy and internal examination of purpose. All healthy things.

Our Primary purposes as I see them:

- Education on law regarding access and land use. We are one of the few places where an Alaskan can speak with the Committee or the Director for help dealing with their issue. We produce an annual report to the Governor and Legislature. We frequently have legislators, besides our members, attend our meetings. We frequently have attendees from the AG's office or other department staff attending to learn as well as testify.
- We serve as watchdogs on active issues or new issues. This is related to the education function just mentioned. If we find something out-of-hand we have raised the alarms.
- We are the keeper of the toolbox. The Director's office has the most complete searchable record of the Statehood Act, FLMPA, ANSCA, ANILCA and other records of law in this field.
- We serve as a sounding board for the public, and agencies as they work through their ideas. There is no other forum that does that.

To provide this level of service there must be an adequate budget to fund the program. We have found three meetings per year are needed. This allows public participation in the cities of Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks. It also is necessary to allow the members to process the numerous plans and federal actions that stack up during longer periods of time. We have enjoyed two dedicated Executive Directors in my time. This quality of employee needs to be adequately salaried. An assistant for the director is needed to handle time consuming but important work supporting the committee or director. More recently the use of interns or clerks was very useful in addressing specific projects (digitizing written records and annotating them). The short-term employees benefit the state not only in addressing workload but by familiarization of future employees with the laws of land use in multiple agencies. The State never had much depth in this field and now there is a crisis in staffing as older employees time out.

Thank-you for the opportunity to testify.

Charles Lean CACFA





SCI Alaska Chapter  
Eagle River, AK 99577  
Cell (907) 903-8329  
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March 28, 2021

32nd Alaska Legislature  
Senate Resources Committee  
Attn: Senator Josh Revak, Chair

**Re: SCI-AK Support for Senate Bill 101 - ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FEDERAL MGT AREAS.**

Dear Senator Revak and honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee,

Founded in 1971, Safari Club International is the country's leading hunter rights advocate and additionally promotes worldwide wildlife conservation. SCI's approximately 50,000 members and 200 Chapters represent all 50 of the United States as well as 106 other countries. SCI-AK, founded in 1977, is nationally and internationally recognized for its contributions in support of SCI's four major mission areas: Advocacy, Conservation, Education, and Humanitarian Services.

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA) was created after the 1980 passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). It successfully gave a voice to Alaskans negotiating ANILCA's complex management rules and regulations until 1999 — when state funding was eliminated. The Commission was re-established in 2007. CACFA is responsible for identifying and reducing potential negative impacts on Alaska and its citizens from federal actions on any of the over 200 million acres of federal land in the state, and is tasked with considering, researching, and holding hearings on consistency with federal law and congressional intent on management, operation, planning, development, and additions to federal management areas in the state (AS 41.37.220(a)).

Alaska is facing unprecedented pressure from the federal government to control access and resources on lands that are rightfully under the purview of the state's residents (and therefore their state government). One continuing concern previously addressed by CACFA are the many land use plans from the various Alaskan parks, preserves and refuges. These documents have far reaching impacts on all Alaskans in the form of restrictions on travel (boat, ATV, snowmobile use, etc.), hunting, fishing and the general use of the land and water. They are often long and very complex documents that would intimidate the average Alaskan. CACFA had both the time and resources to evaluate and comment on these very complex documents.

We thank the Senate Resources committee for introducing SB 101 and offer our full support for this valuable piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Garness**  
**SCI Alaska Chapter President**  
E-mail: [president@aksafariclub.org](mailto:president@aksafariclub.org)  
Cell: (907) 244-9612

*Safari Club International Alaska Chapter  
First for Hunters - First for Wildlife*

## Betty Tangeman

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**From:** LIO Fairbanks  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 10:45 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Written Testimony

Good morning,

The written testimony below was originally submitted to the Senate Resources Committee on 4/2. The constituent noticed that her testimony was not included on BASIS.

Please redact and enter into the record the written testimony below to SB 101 in SRES.

Thanks,  
Jennie  
FBX LIO

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**From:** Mary Bishop <mbishop@ptialaska.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 2, 2021 1:34 PM  
**To:** LIO Fairbanks <Lio.Fairbanks@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Message to Sen. Revak and Senate Resources re SB101

From Dick and Mary Bishop  
1533 Cordova Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907.455.6151 - mbishop@ptialaska.net

We strongly support SB101. We also strongly support adequate funding for staff and operational costs of CACFA.

Historically CACFA provided a public forum for Alaskans' observations on whether ANILCA provisions accommodating their needs were being conscientiously administered by federal agencies. Detailed records confirm that in many cases they are not — whether through ignorance of the law, agencies' self-serving interpretations, or carelessness.

CACFA historically reviewed citizen's concerns, investigated them, and recommended remedies for actual problems. It has served a unique role not fulfilled by government agencies. The public and state agencies need all the help they can get in wading through the complexities of ANILCA. They need it now — and they'll continue to need it in the future.

Sent from my iPad...