



Post Office Box 32712 • Juneau, Alaska 99803

Telephone: (907) 789-2399 • Fax: (907) 586-6020

April 14, 2023

To: Senate.Finance@akleg.gov

Co-Chairs: Senators Stedman, Olson, and Hoffman; and Senators: Kiehl, Merrick, Bishop and Wilson

RE: SB34 – Citizen Advisory Comm on Federal Areas - Letter of Support

The Territorial Sportsmen Inc (TSI), a Juneau-based 501(c)(4) organization representing the interests of thousands of outdoor enthusiasts, is in full support of SB34. TSI has been in existence since before statehood and is perhaps most notable for holding the Golden North Salmon Derby, which provides for university and vocational scholarships for Alaskans. As an outdoor conservation organization, we are also focused on educational and other programs in firearms safety, shooting sports, hunting, fishing, recreational cabin construction and maintenance, and other outdoor activities.

As you know, a tremendous amount of Alaska's land is under federal agency control. Alaska has more federally-controlled land than any other state, yet many federal policies do not recognize this unique situation. Our ability to access federal lands and resources is under constant threat. In 1980, Congress recognized Alaska's uniqueness through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), but federal management policies have not consistently applied the complex rules and regulations in ways that do not unduly restrict Alaskans' access to federal lands and resources.

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA) was created in 1980 to provide a mechanism for Alaskans to have input on management of federal lands following the passage of ANILCA. The commission provides an important watchdog to keep an eye on federal policy makers and give Alaskans opportunities to provide input and advocate for access to Alaska's federal lands for a variety of outdoor activities (i.e. hunting, fishing, travel, etc.). The \$175K annual investment is a small price for protecting such a critical issue for Alaskans.

Please take swift action to hear and pass SB34. Thank you for your service to Alaskans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Beason".

Ryan Beason, President  
Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.

cc: Senator James Kaufman, Primary Sponsor, via email at [Senator.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov)

*Sportsmen Promoting Conservation of Alaska's Fish and Wildlife Since 1945*

**Anne Rittgers**

---

**From:** Jon and Ruth Ewig <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 7:40 PM  
**To:** House Resources; Senate Resources; Jon and Ruth Ewig; timbyrnes@live.com  
**Subject:** We support HB83 and SB34

The Citizen Advirsory Committee is a very good plan and helps with accountability.

Jon and Ruth Ewig  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
[REDACTED]

From: Charlie Lean <[REDACTED]>  
Date: April 14, 2023 at 2:05:35 PM AKDT

Dear Senator Kaufman and Representative Rauscher,

I am writing to express my support for reestablishing CACFA and extending its sunset date to June of 2031. 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? 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  
Nome, Alaska

# Mead Treadwell

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

For hearings scheduled April 17, 2023, submitted for House and Senate Finance Committees

Testimony by Mead Treadwell on HB 83 and SB 34:

**An Act reestablishing the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska; and providing for an effective date**

To the chair, for the record, I am Mead Treadwell, a private citizen, former Lt. Governor of Alaska (2010-2014). I later chaired the Alaska State Lands Advisory Group for the Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas (CACFA) which submitted a report at the following link: [ASLAG Report Final.pdf \(landrights.org\)](#). Previously, at the Institute of the North, I co-authored a Congressionally funded book and curriculum still used to teach federal land managers, Alaska stakeholders and others on the unique protections for Alaskans in federal land laws.

For my entire career in Alaska, beginning in 1974, I have worked with our Governors officially or unofficially to help Alaska keep the promises of Statehood. Federal management decisions on our natural resources too often are counter to Alaska's interests. Alaska no longer has a federal-state land use planning process, as it timed out after ANILCA. I support these bills because CACFA helps us be forever vigilant to protect the rights we have -- and to find new opportunities to bring decision-making home:

- By its governing law, CACFA holds hearings on whether federal land management is consistent with federal law and congressional intent. For example, revenue sharing was in our Statehood Compact, and the "no more" clause in the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) was a compromise in creating our many refuges and parks. Many other special Alaska provisions on access, protection of hunting and subsistence rights, ownership of land under navigable waters, rights of private inholders, and more are in federal laws which govern Alaska lands. CACFA exists to make sure these provisions are kept. When they are not, CACFA is Alaskans voice.
- CACFA examines the effect of federal regulations and federal management decisions on the people of Alaska. Local knowledge helps make the case for better decisions.
- CACFA's advisory groups must be "broadly representative of individuals involved in activities affected by the establishment or management of units of federal land within the state." The Alaska State Lands Advisory Group 2017 report on broken promises in federal land management, drafted under my chairmanship, and crafted by veteran Alaska lands lawyer Bill Horn is educational: [ASLAG Report Final.pdf \(landrights.org\)](#).
- CACFA can, under its governing law, take its recommendations directly to a state or federal agency. It may also ask the attorney general to file suit against a federal official or agency if the commission determines that the federal official or agency is acting in violation of an Act of Congress, congressional intent, or the best interests of the state.

- It was Alaska's expectation at Statehood that federal land would be used, as our statehood land grant land would be used, to further the development of Alaska's economy. Yet many land management plans, revised on a regular basis, set aside areas from timber sales, leasing for business sites, and restrict access across federal lands. CACFA is a method to track these decisions, make sure Alaskan input is provided, and to bring to light actions by federal land managers adverse to Alaska interests.
- The fiscal note on this bill projects less than \$200,000 annual expenditures. That's a small amount to pay to help make sure Alaska's equities are kept on the more than 200 million acres of federal land in our state.
- Citizen input is vital as we make the case for sustainable development of land in federal areas like the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, the lands regulated by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Defense, and the Bureau of Land Management.
- When decisions on federal lands are debated, Alaska must often answer the misinformation and myth about our state, about how Alaskans use Alaska land, about how we are dealing with climate change, about how we are working to support biodiversity, clean air and water. CACFA can help shape that message.
- For a state that came into the Union via a Compact, where parts of the Statehood Act included rights to revenues on federal land and rights to manage Alaska Fish and Game, we are required, under our Constitution to approve any unilateral changes to that Compact by Congress.<sup>1</sup> CACFA can help point out transgressions of our Compact.

Standing up for Alaska's land rights and responsible management of Alaska lands is not a partisan quest. CACFA, which can help build a consensus Alaska agenda, is important no matter who is in power in Washington. An agenda is useless without advocacy to carry it out, and CACFA can provide education about our state whether federal decision makers are Republicans or Democrats.

As long as Uncle Sam owns 60 percent of Alaska's land, we are in the fight against ignorance for the long term. CACFA should be here to stay.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Article XII, Section 14 of Alaska's Constitution. Former Governor Wally Hickel and I at the Institute of the North worked with then Senators Drue Pearce and Robin Taylor to craft and put before the voters this amendment, approved 1996:

A federal statute or proposed federal statute that affects an interest of this State under the Act admitting Alaska to the Union is ineffective as against the State interest unless approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature or approved by the people of the State. The legislature may, by a resolution passed by a majority vote of each house, place the question of approval of the federal statute on the ballot for the next general election unless in the resolution placing the question of approval, the legislature requires the question to be placed before the voters at a special election. The approval of the federal statute by the people of the State is not effective unless the federal statute described in the resolution is ratified by a majority of the qualified voters of the State who vote on the question. Unless a summary of the question is provided in the resolution passed by the legislature, the lieutenant governor shall prepare an impartial summary of the question. The lieutenant governor shall present the question to the voters so that a "yes" vote on the question is a vote to approve the federal statute. *[Amended 1996]*