

HB

566



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

Nels:

These changes in the critical habitat bills are a result of public comments received by the Dept of Fish & Game.

If and when the committee prepares committee substitutes for these bills, please consider incorporating these changes. Most are quite important as they represent boundary corrections.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fran Ulmer".

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

SUPPORT BUILDING
JUNEAU 99801

April 15, 1976

The Honorable Kay Poland
Chairman; Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Building
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mrs. Poland:

At the request of the Senate Resources Committee, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game held a public hearing on February 24, 1976 at 7:30p.m. at the Homer High School to consider HB566 "An Act Creating the Kamishak Bay -Chinitna Bay Critical Habitat Area".

At least one hundred and eight persons attended, of whom eight made statements at the hearing. Five persons spoke in favor of the designation while three questioned its necessity and were opposed. Petroleum industry representatives present at the meeting made no comment.

While we would agree with those who voiced opposition to critical Habitat designation, that this will not give the State of Alaska any more authority over the lands in question, we feel it very appropriate that the policy directions for managing these highly productive lands be established through the legislative (i.e. public) process. Further we feel it appropriate that a significant measure of management authority in such areas reside with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

In the process of review of HB 566 for the Senate Resources Committee we have discovered several errors and omissions in the present bill. These will be incorporated in a substitute bill which will be submitted through the Governor's office in the near future.

29025

We thank you for your interest in this legislation. The public hearings requested by your committee have been a valuable aid in refining the Department's Critical Habitat nominations.

Sincerely,



Robert E. LeResche
Chief
Habitat Protection Section

cc: Chancy Croft
Fran Ulmer
Nels Anderson