

HB

664

2/7/76

9:55 AM

Mr Chairman & Committee

I want to go on record of supporting
H. B. 664, & a unanimous vote
of the Anchorage Motor Truckers Club
to support H. B. 664. we have approx
600 members in the club.

The advisory concept is particularly
appealing to our organization.

Jack Helms
Pres.

Anchorage Motor Truckers Club Inc

P.S. I have a run to get
going from Palmer to
Willow over Hatcher Pass.

Sign Wishing to Testify
Pat Carney 2

Sign wishing to testify
Name.

- ✓ Dean Bunker
- ✓ Russell W. Cahill
- ~~Henry L. ...~~
- ~~D. C. Renshaw~~
- ✓ Joe Kircher
- ✓ Tony - Ukaryans
- ✓ E. H. Dearborn
- ✓ Virginia del Piaz
- ✓ Wayne L. ...
- ✓ Arthur J. Hunter
- ✓ Pete Green
- ✓ Sig Risted

Sign In Sheet

IF YOU
WISH TO TESTIFY
PUT AN X
UNDER HERE

NAME	ADDRESS	
✓ Robert P. Riley	SRA Palmer	X
Pat Carney	SR Wauke	X
✓ Ed Martin	S.R. Willow Box 16	X
✓ Jean Woods	Box 827 Palmer	X
✓ Barbara Woods	Box 827 Palmer	X
✓ A. L. Renshaw	1850 Wintersham, Anch.	X
— John J. Stout	3419 W 81st Anch	
— Harry M. Hill	Box 766 Palmer, AK	X
✓ Nancy Stryker	Box 335 Palmer AK	X
— Leo J. Lucas	Box 855 Palmer AK	
— Helen Woodings	Box 1386 Palmer	
— Julie Helms	2157 Aurora Dr Anch	X
— Don & Betty Stephens	506 Bogard Rd - Primm	

2/17/24

Dept. of Resources

I August Scheele Borough
Assemblyman from Wasilla
district am opposed to the
Tahketa Park and endorse
house bill 264 Agriculture
bill

I have been an Alaskan
resident the past 31 years

Thank you

August Scheele
(Sis)

Box 330

Wasilla Alaska

February 2, 1976 - Talkeetna State Park--Agricultural Reserve Hearings

Robert Risely - presented copy of MSB code title 16 - 8/20/74

Ed Martin, Sr., a resident, favors multiple use. There hasn't been enough exploration of the land to determine what the use should be. Not in favor of either bill--favors multiple use.

Mrs. Gene Woods, a resident, supports 664 with changes. She opposes 580. People can live with HB 664.

Miss Barbara Woods, a resident, favors HB 664. Multiple use, with some control.

A.L. Renshaw, a resident, is a 3rd generation mining engineer. He represents the Alaska Miners Association, and the people of the area. This is the 5th hearing on this issue. The proposals have nampere mineral exploration because of uncertainty. The Willow Creek Mining District has good gold potential. There are 2000 jobs involved--and a 10 billion dollar industry. HB 580 is a rehash of the Committee Substitute for last session from the mountaineering club. It is restrictive. Mr. Renshaw questioned Ln. 5 Pg. 5. Does this mean no development? how do you get access if no motor vehicles are allowed. He was also concerned with MAY wordings, veto power of the Park Dept., and Ln. 21 Pg. 6--reasonable to the state--Does not mention private This could lead to possible condemnation. There is no responsibility for protecting in-holdings. Re: U.S.G.S. 10004--the recreation zone has shaded patented claims and survey areas--but does not show unpatented lands. Mr. Renshaw also stated that the Chief Planner had said that the recreation area was unmanageable. It is heavily mined. There is stored dynamite--a tremendous hazzard. There would have to be restriction on public activities. There would have to be insurance for liability for the owners. Responsibility would have to be spelled out. Traditionally this has been a multiple use area...grazing, recreation, mining, etc. He opposes HB580. "Put the bill to rest--it keeps coming up" HB664 defines a reasonable multiple use for the area--the mining people can live with this.

Henry Hill, a resident, and involved in mining in the area. His family owns property in the area. Leave it exactly as it is. No one bothered it until recreation came in, then agriculture, now mining. Everybody used it before without any classification. Why change it. Existing laws will take care of it. HB580 allows one use--he's opposed. HB664--possibility of good economic source. Possible problem of revenue source vs. recreation source. In HB664 the management responsibility is too far removed from the people.

Mr. Harry Luckwald, a resident: There is gold potential in the area. Mining laws hold precedent--grandfather rights. Against HB580. HB664 is a giant step forward. People used to mine up high near Eagle River, but the Borough stopped them by use.

Anchorage Motor Mushers Club--600 members--supports HB664.

Dean Bunker, a homesteader near the area. We do not need any more parks. There is Denali Park expansion. This park could expand.

Susitna Valley Kiwanis Club: We do not need more parks, but if there is a need for this park HB664 is more palatable.

Russ Cahill, Director of Parks, State of Alaska: HB580 is concerned with the area. It is a departure from normal parks, in that it has a corridor of multiple use within it. The Dept. is taking into consideration all mining claims patented and active. The intent of the Park is to NOT purchase land within the Park unless it is essential to campground or management. If land is to be purchased it will be at fair market value. Ranger patrols will be in effect. There will be a possible loss of revenue. Re: HB 664, this is 430,000 acres. 13% is good for agricultural purposes. 87% is not good for agriculture. Cahill is not in favor of this proposal. Only one Department and one man should run the system. If he does not do a good job, he can be removed.

Dr. Deerborn, a resident of the area: Is opposed to all regulations to create a park. It would cripple recreational potential by private ownership. Why not further develop Chugiak Park for Anchorites.

Virginia Del Piaz: President, Upper Cook Inlet Conservation Society: I favor HB580 strongly. 150,000 people in 1975 were opposed to HB664. The majority of the land is above 12,000 ft., and should be included within a Park. The area is not agricultural land. (Del Piaz lives in the area)

Wayne Bowens, a local dairy man: Favors HB664. The multiple use concept is best. Don't lock it up as a park. There is a grazing area, and some crops can be grown.

Arthur Criter, of the Willow Creek Miners: Is opposed to a Park which affects the mining area. Tired of fighting the issue of parks. Prepared to initiate lawsuits (31) Re: HB664, three mining claims additional would be working if not for the cloud of a Park over them.

Pete Green, a local realtor, and member of the Realtors Association: (30 members) Is not too concerned with either bill. Multiple use concept best--protect --put rights and mining first. Park people haven't shown him that they can manage parks. Costs haven't been brought up. Central location, and one agency, to which the people could go to secure all necessary permits, is necessary.

Sig Rigstad, a resident: 1 million acres of parks within the Borough now. There would be more than an acre per person if Talkeetna Mt. Park is enacted. It was mining that opened the area. Parks should take small areas and manage them for the people who would use them. Only outdoor people who are healthy can use the proposed Park areas. There is considerable expense to run a park even if it is not developed. Invest in the parks that are already established. Re: HB664, there is an option if the land has to be tied up. The Advisory Committee is important. But this committee should have as a criteria the size of the organizations involved--not naming specific organizations.

Pat Carney, a dairy farmer: Is opposed to HB664. Is it proper for members of the committee to voice their opinions at this hearing? Feels we are facing a special interest group (mining) who is against HB580 and using HB664. Feels that the HB664 cannot stand as it is. There is not enough agricultural land to justify the bill.

George Parkee: Enjoys parks, but there is a need for agricultural reserve. Supports multiple use, but need to maintain agricultural land. Need for mining--the proven area is needed for recreation also.

File

February 23, 1976

Nels A. Anderson, Chairman
House Resource Committee
Pouch V
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Anderson:

I am writing to express my opposition to H.B. 664, The Talkeetna Mountains Agricultural Reserve Bill. I am even more strongly opposed to H.B. 580 and other proposals to make the area into a State Park.

The copies of the proposal that I have seen distributed by Mr. Risley, of Palmer, are very restrictive to winter recreational uses of the area because of the "Scenic Roadway" provision. Attempts to keep skiers and snowmachiners off the snow covering an area 300 feet each side of every mining road or the main road makes the entire proposal seem silly. Such restrictions, I believe, reveal the true motives behind the proposal.

The amount of snowmachine activity around Palmer should have become apparent during the hearings February 7. Unfortunately, none of the "users" of the area in winter could testify, because the hearing was scheduled to exactly coincide with the Hatcher Pass Snowmobile Race. This annual event brings considerable economic benefit to the Borough. Much of the snowmachine recreational activity for the borough centers in the Hatcher Pass area. Please remember when considering passage of this bill that the "users" of the area are snowmachiners and skiers, not the varied array of "parkbuilders" that travel great distances to testify in favor of placing restrictions on other type users than themselves.

The fact is, that almost all of the uses currently being performed on the presently state owned land in the Hatcher Pass area are quite compatible. The State already has custody of the land. The State can build parking lots, trails, or other facilities if it wants to. Timber in the area could be leased or sold. Cabin sites can be permitted. Mining has flourished in the area, and might again if the rumor of park status for the area could be eliminated. Agricultural interests have never been bothered by other activities in the area, and agricultural leases can be granted on any of the state land at any time. Undesirable development such as generating stations, power dams, open pit mines, or airports, (if these are undesirable) can be prevented on the land now, because the land is in State ownership. The State could perform functions of garbage pickup, water in campgrounds, roads or trails, nature walks or even a State operated visitors center if it wanted to, at much less cost, by leaving the land as it is than by creating another reserve or park.

Yours very truly,

Lee Allen
Star Route A Box 155
Palmer, Alaska 99645

CHAIRMAN:
NELS A. ANDERSON, JR.

STAFF ASSISTANT:
GUY VANDOREN

POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811



VICE CHAIRMAN:
TED SMITH

SECRETARY:
~~BETH O'DONNELL~~
Ruth I. Allington
PHONE: 485-3715
465-3781

House Resource Committee

FRED BROWN

ALVIN OSTERBACK

DICK ELIASON

LEO RHODE

MIKE HERSHBERGER

LESLIE (RED) SWANSON

JAMES HUNTINGTON

February 27, 1976

Dan Renshaw, P.E.
519 Eighth Ave., Rm. 209
Anchorage, Ak. 99501

Dear Mr. Renshaw;

HB664, establishing an agricultural reserve, passed out of my committee on February 19, 1976. I believe the bill is quite flexible in allowing mining along with other activities. Mr. Ose asked that the bill move forward, so the bill was passed on.

The bill reads the same as it did when you were in Juneau. Mr. Smith, of course, refused to sign the committee report, but we had enough signatures to move it out with a do-pass recommendation.

I understand that the administration is really upset by our action. This is understandable since they wanted HB580 to pass rather than HB664.

HB664 is now in Finance. I would advise you to contact Mr. Ose with regards to having him tell you when HB664 is going to be heard in that committee.

I would caution you and Mr. Ose by saying I suspect Mr. Smith may attempt to attach HB580 in place of HB664 while the bill is in Finance.

Very Sincerely,

Nels A. Anderson, Jr.
NAA/ra

DAN RENSHAW, P.E.

CONSULTING ENGINEER

519 EIGHTH AVENUE, ROOM 209
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

February 21, 1976

Representative Nels A. Anderson Jr.
Alaska State Capitol Bldg. Room 118
Juneau, Alaska, 99801

Dear Representative Nels,


After having met with you briefly at your offices on Tuesday, February 17, I listened in on the mark up session of your House Resource Committee regarding House Bill 664. I found that most of my objections to the original 664 had already been amended into an agreeable form prior to my arriving in Juneau. This was good to know.

So I listened to the mark up session wherein Representative Ted Smith attempted to include the language of House Bill 580 into 664. This was a little uncomfortable to watch but I understand that this is what the whole process is about. Because of this I would like to request some time to comment on whatever the final form of 664 might be prior to it being reported out of committee. I would greatly appreciate such an opportunity. To expedite my comment please use both the address shown above and the following: Dan Renshaw, Usibelli Coal Mine, Usibelli, Alaska, 99787. My time is divided roughly equally between the two.

I also want to state again how welcome it is to know that someone of your political philosophy is in a position to do some good in Juneau as Chairman of the House Resource Committee. I only wish there were several more legislators so inclined.

Thank you,

Yours truly,


Dan Renshaw

HB 664

File



STAR ROUTE A, BOX 72
PALMER, ALASKA 99645
(907) 745-3501

February 12, 1976

Testimony presented in reference to HB 664 and HB 580 at the public hearing February 7, 1976 at the Matanuska Susitna Borough Conference Room, Palmer, Alaska

Mr. Chairman:

I am Curtis H. Dearborn, a resident of this area since 1950 and I am speaking in opposition to all of the Bills under consideration that would create a State Park in the Hatcher Pass region of the Talkeetna Mountains in this Borough.

Is the proposal to create a State Park in the Hatcher Pass area of the Talkeetna Mountains the end of a sentimental journey for our friends and relatives in the Anchorage Borough? Or, is it an example of San Jay Grandi's "mixed economy", where he says, "I don't feel you should throttle either the state-owned or private sector. You should let them run in competition with each other and let the best one win".

In our case the creation of a State Park in this area with tax monies will cripple recreational endeavors by the private sector and deprive them of the right to own and operate businesses effectively on this land.

In this year of our Nation's Bicentennial we should be encouraging private ownership of land, not hoarding it by political entities. President Ford has just renewed his faith in the old American axion that everyone ought to own a piece of the country and understand the rewards of ownership and the risks.

Aside from the common problems of park location and development this Talkeetna Mountains State Park proposal should be concerned with accomodating persons with recreational desires in closer proximity to their homes.

I have lived here in the Matanuska Valley for 25 years and I walked the mountain ranges that border the Valley either as a leader of L. V. Scouts, Explorer Scouts or as an outdoorsman. I am impressed by our scenic beauty. I am also impressed by the lack of roads that would take the less fortunate to these areas.

I wonder why the Chugach State Park land which contains scenic beauties that rival those of the Hatcher Pass area are being by-passed?

There are three good reasons why Chugach State Park should be the major recreation park area for this region. Its nearness to Anchorage would cut travel time, fuel requirements for travelers and reduce conjection on the Palmer-Glenallen and Parks Highway.

If a capital site is chosen within the Matanuska Susitna Borough the need for housing will put a new pressure on our agricultural lands. With the Talkeetna Mountain region uncommitted to a park a surprising number of persons could adapt themselves to housing in this proposed park region.

Homes built on the mountain slopes east of Anchorage and in the Eagle River area are evidence of what our population will do if given a chance. Some may contend that what they have done is not good but on close examination of the situations that are not good it will be learned that it was a developer rather than a prospective home owner that created the congestion.

Surely this Borough would gain far more revenue from its year round inhabitants than it would from a traveling public which must decline in travel in the future to survive.

Although we appear to have an abundance of food today there are potential natural disasters and Saint Augustine could be one of them that disrupt our 1500 mile supply route to a point where every inch of tillable land would be needed here to produce food for survival. We are, as you know, a long way from our food source.

One of the reasons used to justify a Park in this Hatcher Pass area has been that users of the area have neglected to care for their trash. If we were to strengthen our patrol in this Borough those who contaminate our area would be prosecuted and their numbers would decline. I am not advocating a police state. We have a courteous group on patrol now.

Lets help them do what we expect of them by increasing their numbers and facilities. This is the more economical course to follow to prevent littering as well as setting a good example for youth.



CITY OF WASILLA

P. O. BOX 430
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687

RESOLUTION 76-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASILLA CONCURRING WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION AND URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TALKEETNA MOUNTAINS STATE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE".

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has proposed the establishment of a Talkeetna Mountains State Park to encompass an area known as "Hatcher Pass" and areas of the Talkeetna Mountains; and

WHEREAS, local residents do not favor a Talkeetna Mountains State Park but agree that the area should be established as an agricultural reserve; and

WHEREAS, the area to be in the proposed agricultural reserve is of local and statewide importance, capable of providing revenue under a maximum utilization concept; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that a management responsibility group consisting of representatives from the Division of Agriculture, Division of Lands, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Highways, and Division of Parks, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, and mining interests, be formed; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the south boundary of the proposed reserve be established to follow the top of the ridges of the Talkeetna Mountains to allow adequate land for maximum farming development to the south of the mountain range; and



CITY OF WASILLA

P. O. BOX 430
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687

RESOLUTION 76-3
page 2

WHEREAS, the west boundary of the proposed agricultural reserve would be considered a buffer zone against overdevelopment and the east boundary be reserved for future stock raising; and

WHEREAS, such a program would provide maximum utilization of land under private ownership and would increase the Borough tax base; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has studied the area as proposed by the Division of Parks and has recommended an alternate use of the area;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Wasilla concur with the recommendation of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission and approve an Act Establishing the Talkeetna Mountains State Agricultural Reserve and forward same to State Legislators and request that a public hearing to explain the proposed act be held within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Wasilla this _____ day of January, 1976.

LEO M. NUNLEY
City Mayor

ATTEST:

CANDICE E. COTTLE
City Clerk
(SEAL)

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 664

TALKEETNA MOUNTAINS STATE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE
By Robert Risley

Chairman Anderson, _____ and members of State House Resources Committee:

I want to thank the Committee for taking the time to hear our testimony on this important HB664. First I would like to offer some changes as reflected on the copy handed to you.

Line 15 page 1 after AS 38.05.300 strike the rest of that sentence. Article VIII, Sec. 7 says, "The legislature may provide for acquisition of sites, objects and areas of natural beauty or of historical, cultural, recreation, or scientific value. It may reserve them from the public domain and provide for their administration and preservation for use, enjoyment and welfare of the people." This appears to me as being unnecessary and could jeopardize the rights of private owners, mining and even grazing. The Bill itself seems adequate without it.

Errors in the boundary description have been corrected to conform to the map. To line 16 add asterisk sentence at top of page to protect private owners since the Borough Code and environmental conservation title 18 protects the environme

Line 1 at top of page 3 has been corrected to reflect the Borough Assembly dictates to the Planning and Zoning Commission and not the other way around.

Line 2 page 3 changes the word nonvoting to voting member. This area is located within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Borough representative should be a voting member.

Lines 6 and 7 furnishes more flexibility.

Under the Mandatory Borough Act we in this area were required to organize the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. We were also required to establish a tax base to support the Borough.

The responsibility of the Borough Planning and Zoning Commission is to plan for the Borough's needs and to identify the options that will increase our tax base to support the rapid demand for services. HB664 attempts to carry out that responsibility.

For the past three years, the majority of the people in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough have strongly opposed the creation of a Hatcher Pass-Talkeetna Mountains State Park. During this time, no one had come up with an alternate plan even though the majority of the people I talked to agree that some type of control was needed for the area.

Since the area's potential was recognized in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Plan, the Borough Planning and Zoning Commission decided it was time to study the area for an alternate plan that would furnish the maximum benefit to the most people with minimum of restrictions and protect the grazing for future agricultural development.

From personal experience, I grazed sheep up in the area with lambs four months old that dressed out over seventy pounds! It's been proven that beef cattle fattened on that grass is equal to grain fed beef.

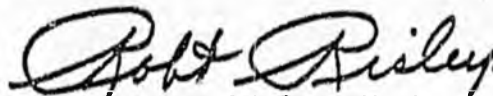
In talking with the Flying Tiger Airlines people, this beef from the drought area could be flown in for around .35 cents per pound. With a back-haul of fish, ore or other commodities from Alaska, it would reduce the cost to almost half at the same time reduce the cost on the back-haul. State revenue from grazing fees are \$2.50 per head.

Under HB664, the mines would start operation which, in turn, would increase the Borough's tax base. Employment of over 400 people would further enhance our taxes with a minimum of impact on the Borough for services.

Under the Board of Directors and Advisory Group Concept, it is felt that a better control over the recreational activities within the area would result. What better time than the Bicentennial Year to attempt to re-establish cooperation between State Government and its people. It is hoped that the Federal Government will use this concept in their classification of the D2 lands. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has stated that the South 48 is losing over 1.2 million acres of agriculture lands every year. Let's not have that happen to Alaska.

In closing I would like to emphasize the fact that HB664 has more to offer the people of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and visitors from other areas with built-in controls than a park.

Thank you very much.



Robert Risley, Member
Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning
Commission

THE FOLLOWING PAGES WERE TREATED AS
A UNIT IN THE ORIGINAL FILE.

January 26, 1976

The Honorable Nels Anderson, Representative
Chairman, State House Resources Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

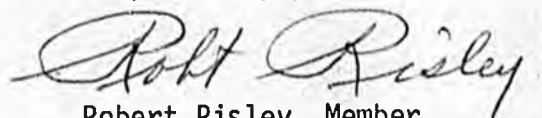
Dear Representative Anderson:

Attached is a Matanuska-Susitna Borough proposal to establish a Talkeetna Mountain State Agricultural Reserve in lieu of a State Park, HB580.

I believe that, when you read the attached information, you will agree that the Borough's proposal will serve all Alaskans in a much better way than the establishment of a State Park.

Your support, for the Agricultural Reserve concept will be very much appreciated and any further assistance the Borough Planning Commissioners may give will be gladly provided.

Respectfully yours,



Robert Risley, Member
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Planning Commission

RR:cr

January 26, 1976

The Honorable Jay Hammond, Governor
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Hammond:

I want to take this opportunity to express my pleasure with the majority of items in your State of the State Message. Likewise, I feel, you will welcome my comments concerning proposals on which you have been misinformed.

I am very happy with your statements "I have told Alaskans I would ask them what they wanted rather than tell them what they're going to get...."

The attached Matanuska-Susitna Borough proposed Bill (Resolution Serial No. 76-7) reflects the feelings of the majority of people in the Borough. These feelings have been expressed for three years in a row during Legislative Hearings on proposed Talkeetna Mountains State Park. Now you have introduced another Park proposal HB580 that is even more restrictive.

Another statement that pleased us here in the Borough is, "Also, an early priority for the new planning section will be to address the future of Agriculture in Alaska...."

I am sure you are aware that this Borough has the most potential for future agricultural development in the State. I am sure you wouldn't want that potential stimed in any way but developed to its maximum.

I have owned property adjacent to our proposed Agricultural Reserve for the past 39 years. During the earlier part of that time I raised domestic sheep. Four month old lambs on that grass produced over seventy (70) pounds of dressed meat.

Back about the same time, a Mr. Shonbeck, had an experimental herd of beef cattle in the headwaters of the Little Susitna River and the meat produced off the grass was as solid as any grain fed beef could be. These facts were brought out at the Legislative Hearings but apparently were never brought to your attention.

-2-

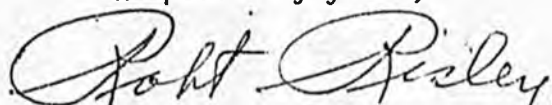
Montana and Wyoming have been experiencing droughts. We are working on a project with beef growers in that area on the possibility of flying in thin stock--fatten them on the Talkeetna Mountains grass for Alaska's market. State revenue from this operation could develop into a sizeable sum in a few years. The Flying Tiger Airline has especially equipped aircraft that would haul them for about thirty-five cents per pound.

The following comments are furnished for your consideration which supports the Borough's proposal:

1. Grazing of livestock as the primary purpose will insure Alaska's future meat supply.
2. Unrestricted mining will greatly assist the Borough tax base. Under present mining laws it would not detract from the environmental aspects of the area.
3. What better time than the Bicentennial Year to re-establish self-discipline in our young people that uses the Reserve to control their own programs without inadequate taxpayer supported supervisory personnel. Under our proposal, we would have hundreds of volunteer police where one or two Park Rangers would be helpless.
4. Under the Mandatory Borough Act, the people in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley were required to organize a Borough. To support it, we had to establish a tax base as well as Long Range Planning for future development. HB580 would withdraw over 40 sections of tillable farm land between the south boundary and the top of the mountain ridge above. The west boundary includes a large number of sections of prime timber.

Based on the above information, I urge you to consider the withdrawal of HB580 or any Senate sponsored Talkeetna Mountain State Park and support our Talkeetna Mountain State Agricultural Reserve.

Respectfully yours,



Robert Risley, Member
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Planning Commission

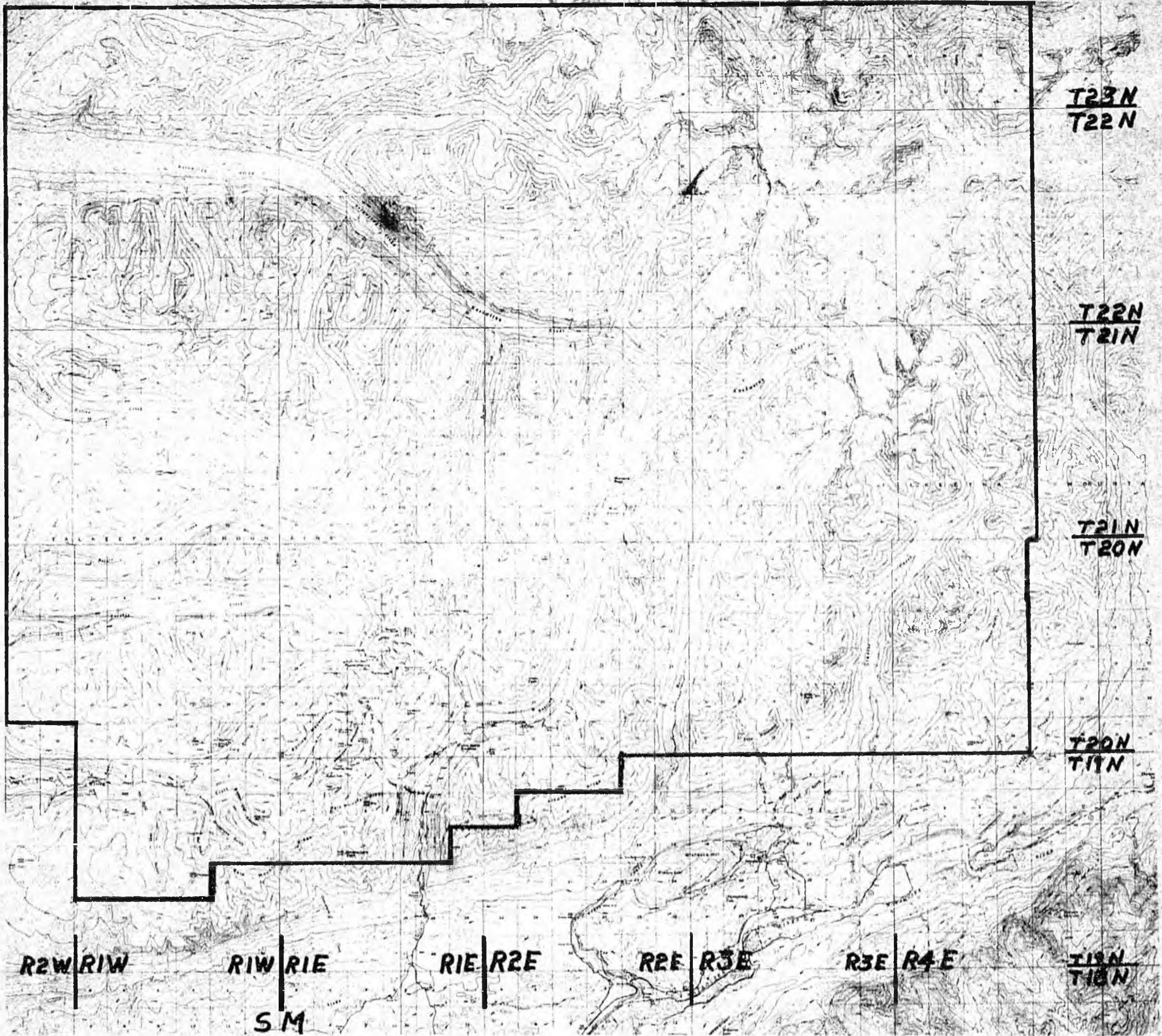
KR:er

cc: Representative Al Ose
Senator Jay Kerttula
Senator Kay Poland
Representative Nels Anderson

****PLEASE NOTE****

THE ORIGINAL FILE CONTAINS AN OVERSIZED DOCUMENT THAT
IS UNSUITABLE FOR FILMING. PLEASE REFER TO THE ALASKA
STATE ARCHIVES TO VIEW THE ORIGINAL.

MAP. PROPOSED TALKEETNA MOUNTAINS
STATE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE
M.S.B. RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 76-7



Proposed Talkeetna Mountains--State Agricultural Reserve--M.S.B. Resolution Serial No. 76-7

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 76-7

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH CONCURRING WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TALKEETNA MOUNTAINS STATE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE".

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has proposed the establishment of a Talkeetna Mountains State Park to encompass an area known as "Hatcher Pass" and areas of the Talkeetna Mountains; and

WHEREAS, local residents do not favor a Talkeetna Mountains State Park but agree that the area should be established as an agricultural reserve; and

WHEREAS, the area to be in the proposed agricultural reserve is of local and statewide importance capable of providing revenue under a maximum utilization concept; and

WHEREAS, the land, under the proposed agricultural reserve, would be used but not limited to grazing, recreation, hunting, fishing and mining; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that a management responsibility group consisting of representatives from the Division of Agriculture, Division of Lands, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Highways, and Division of Parks, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, and mining interests, be formed; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the south boundary of the proposed reserve be established to follow the top of the ridges of the Talkeetna Mountains to allow adequate land for maximum farming development to the south of the mountain range; and

WHEREAS, the west boundary of the proposed agricultural reserve would be considered a buffer zone against overdevelopment and the east boundary be reserved for future stock raising; and

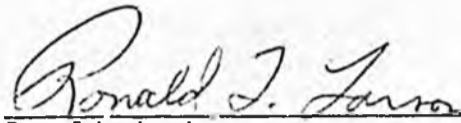
WHEREAS, such a program would provide maximum utilization of land under private ownership and would increase the Borough tax base; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has studied the area as proposed by the Division of Parks and has recommended an alternate use of the area;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Assembly concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve an "Act Establishing the Talkeetna Mountains State Agriculture Reserve" and forward same to State

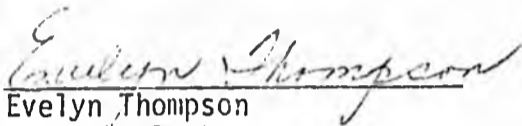
Legislators and request that a public hearing to explain the proposed act be held within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Borough Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough this 14th day of January, 1976.



Ronald L. Larson
Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



Evelyn Thompson
Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

SENATE BILL NO. _____

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an act entitled: "An act establishing
the Talkeetna Mountains State Agricultural
Reserve".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

SECTION 1. AS 38.05.365 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(22) "State Agricultural Reserve" means land of local and statewide importance capable of providing revenue under maximum utilization concept, including but not limited to grazing, recreation, hunting, fishing and mining.

SECTION 2. Section 38.05 is amended by adding new sections to read:

ARTICLE 13. TALKEETNA MOUNTAINS STATE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE.

SECTION 38.05.371 DECLARATION OF PURPOSE. The purpose of sections 371 - 392 of this chapter is to obtain the maximum utilization of the area for agricultural potential, revenue producing operations, and recreation.

SECTION 38.05.375 DESIGNATED STATE LANDS AND WATER TO MAXIMUM USE AS A STATE AGRICULTURAL RESERVE.

A. The following lands and waters within the Talkeetna Mountains State Agricultural Reserve are subject to the uses specified in section 380 - 392 of this chapter:

(1) Beginning at the SE corner of Section 34, T 20 N, R 3 E, S 4; thence west twelve miles along section lines to the NW corner Section 2, T 19 N, R 2 E, S. 4; thence south one mile to the SE corner Section 2; thence west three miles to the NW corner of Section 13; thence south one mile to the SW corner Section 3, T 19 N, R 2 E, S 4; thence west two miles to the NW corner of Section 13, T 19 N, R 1 E, S 4; thence south one mile to the SW corner of Section 13; thence west seven miles to the NW corner Section 23, T 19 N, R 1 W, S 4; thence south one mile to the SW corner of Section 23; thence west four miles to SW corner of Section 19; thence north five miles to the

NW corner of Section 31, T 20 N, R 1 W, SM; thence west two miles to the SW corner of Section 26, T 20 N, R 2 W, SM; thence north twenty miles to the NW corner of Section 23, T 23 N, R 2 W, SM; thence east 30 miles to the NE corner of Section 22, T 23 N, R 3 E, SM; thence south twenty-one miles to the point of beginning. This area encompasses 672 sections or 430,080 acres.

SECTION 38.05.380 USES PERMITTED

- (a) This area is classified as multipurpose use in accordance with Section 38.05.300.
- (b) Grazing livestock under an established fee basis is the primary purpose for this area.
- (c) Mining activities are permitted and will be conducted in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 of this chapter.
- (d) Recreational activities are permitted subject to the rules and regulations developed in accordance with Section 38.05.390, 391 and 392.
- (e) Hunting and fishing will be permitted in accordance with Department of Fish and Game regulations.
- (f) Development of private property within boundaries of this reserve will be in accordance with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code.

SECTION 38.05.385. MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY.

- (a) All lands and waters specified in Section 375 of this chapter are assigned to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture for control by a Board of Directors with the State Director of Agriculture as Chairman.
- (b) The Board of Directors will consist of one representative from the office of each of the following State Directors:
 - (1) Agriculture
 - (2) Fish and Game
 - (3) Highways
 - (4) Mining
 - (5) Parks
 - (6) Division of Lands

Each representative will be assigned from the closest office to the area being managed.

(c) In addition to the above, the Board of Directors will include a representative from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly. The Borough Assembly may designate a member from the Borough Planning and Zoning Commission as their representative.

SECTION 38.05.390. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY GROUP.

(a) The Board of Directors will obtain assistance in administering the recreational activities within the Agricultural Reserve by organizing a volunteer advisory group from the following organizations:

- (1) Alpine Ski Club
- (2) Cross Country Ski Club
- (3) Snow Machine Club
- (4) Hang Glider Club
- (5) Local Stock Grazing Association
- (6) Mountaineering Club
- (7) Mining Association
- (8) Sportsman Association
- (9) Dog Musher Association

(b) The advisory group will assist the Board of Directors in developing the rules and regulations for the controlled use of this reserve.

(c) The regulations will attempt to establish self-discipline in all activities enjoyed within the reserve.

SECTION 38.05.391. PENALTIES AND FEES.

(a) All persons apprehended for vandalism or leaving of garbage within the reserve, will be punished by being required to replace all damaged property including labor. Whenever possible, they will be required to perform physical labor to restore damaged facilities to their original condition.

(b) A use fee may be charged to cover administration and maintenance of the Reserve. Volunteer assistance listed in Sec. 390(a) above, will be utilized to the fullest extent possible.

(c) Application for matching funds from the Federal Government to construct parking spaces, sanitary facilities, water facilities and warm-up huts will be processed by the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

(d) All users of the area will be required to haul their own garbage home for disposal.

SECTION 38.05.392. RESTRICTIONS.

(a) A strip of land 300 feet on each side of the Hatcher Pass roadway and mining roads in the area (except on private lands) is designated Scenic Roadway. Flowers will not be picked in this area but berry picking is permitted. Constructed parking facilities are permitted if necessary.

(b) Users of the Reserve will avoid using this strip for snow machines or ski activities except through corridors established for that purpose from constructed parking spaces.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

GRAZING AREA

The entire area is suitable for grazing of domestic sheep and cattle.

Dr. Walter A. Guntharp, Administrator for the Rural Development Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture stated in a press release that, "1.2 million acres per year was lost to urban and other development uses." Aside from a moral obligation to contribute to the alleviation of world hunger, our country needs the foreign exchange product through increasing sales of agricultural products for the growing population. Farsighted husbandry of the land is essential. Only by giving development it's place and leaving agricultural land in it's place can we insure a better America for all".

This proposal attempts to insure adequate grazing for future stockgrowers in this Borough as well as encouraging outside stockgrowers to ship stock up here, fatten them on the lush grass, and be consumed in Alaska.

MINING

There are known rich deposits of ore in the area. Under the proposed management, this activity could accelerate into a large tax base and employment which is badly needed in support of this Borough.

RECREATION

It must be recognized that grazing with adequate protection of grasslands is the number one priority. However, during the grazing period, recreational activities such as mountain climbing, hiking, hunting, fishing and berry picking would be compatible. Grazing during winter sports activities does not exist.

SCENIC ROADWAYS

To protect the flora and fauna for motorists to enjoy, a strip of land three hundred ft. wide on each side of all roads is necessary. Narrow corridors across this strip from established parking spaces for use by snowmachines and skiers is necessary to protect these scenic values.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Lands which may be selected by Natives, Capitol Site Selection, or unforeseen conflicts may be excluded at a later date.

Maximum use concept to realize needed revenue in support of State and Local Governments should be given the most consideration.

The proposed management structure will promote integrity, self-discipline responsibility, and a sense of pride in the people that use the area. It should also provide a volunteer police force in maintaining order and controlling vandalism. By providing the recreational organizations the responsibility for writing their own rules and regulations, enforcement will be minimal.

BOUNDARIES

The south boundary was established to follow the top of the ridges to allow adequate land for maximum farming development south of the mountain range. It is hoped that, as the farm land adjacent to the base of the mountains is sold for farming the private owners will want to purchase the mountain side for private grazing and tree farming under the Government Reforestation Program. Under private ownership, this would increase the Borough Tax Base.

The west boundary is considered to be a buffer zone against over development.

The north boundary follows a ridge pattern that is considered an adequate area for the foreseeable future and may be moved farther north as the upper Susitna Valley farming development requires it's use.

The east boundary, although steep in profile, is ideal for domestic sheep grazing. Future stockraising may dictate it's movement farther to the east.