

SJR

6

2/19/75

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

Mr. Speaker:

Date 2-26-75

The Committee on RESOURCES has had SJR 6

under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

recommends it DO PASS

recommends it DO NOT PASS

recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)

recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR SJR 9 AND THAT

CS FOR SJR 4 DO PASS

"and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____

COMMITTEE

reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

"other"

Members signing the Majority report:

Mark A. Anderson _____
Adrian Stapp _____
John ... _____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

Mike Hirschberger recommends: No Recommendation
McLean recommends:

_____ recommends:

Mark A. Anderson Chairman

Alaska State Legislature

File ~~LS~~
SJC 6

HOME ADDRESS
P. O. BOX 65
GALENA, ALASKA 99741

WHILE IN JUNEAU
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
TELEPHONE 586-6155



SENATOR
John C. Sackett

RULES COMMITTEE
FINANCE COMMITTEE
LABOR & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Senate

March 5, 1975

Nels Anderson
Representative
Alaska State House of
Representatives

Dear Nels:

In your committee you have Senate Joint Resolution 6,
"An Act relating to the renaming of Mt. McKinley to "Denali".

Attached for your information are copies of letters that
we have received. Additionally, the resolution has been
endorsed by the State Geographic Board, the Mt. McKinley
Advisory Council, Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Mountain
Climbing Association in Alaska.

Please let me know should you desire additional information
and when and if you anticipate bringing up the bill for action
before your committee.

Thank you very much. With kind regard,

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Sackett".

John C. Sackett
Alaska State Senator

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

POUCH B-JUNEAU 99801

February 19, 1975

The Honorable John C. Sackett
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sackett:

The State Geographic Board would like to take this opportunity to advise you of its endorsement of Senate Joint Resolution Six, changing the name of Mt. McKinley to Mt. Denali.

Although this is just a minor point, because Denali means "the great mountain," do you feel adding the diminutive, Mount, is really necessary? Knowing of people who still continue to use the name Denali, I do not recall them using mount with the name. Your comments would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lee McAnerney
Lee McAnerney
Chairman, State
Geographic Board

LMcA:1b



*McKinley
Res.*

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BOX 2037 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

October 18, 1974

Hon. John Sackett
527 3rd Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Senator Sackett:

At its General Meeting Wednesday, October 16th, the members of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska unanimously passed a motion to change the name of Mt. McKinley to Mt. Denali, and to send a letter to you indicating that position.

The motion was introduced by Helen Nienhueser (author of "55 Ways to the Wilderness in Southcentral Alaska") as a result of a recent visit in Colorado with Margaret Murray, a long-time Alaskan and author of "Two in the Far North." During this visit, Mrs. Murray said that she had written to the Board of Geographic Names suggesting this change, and they told her the request must come from within Alaska. In addition, Mrs. Nienhueser reported that the Denali Citizens Council, a group headed by Ev Drashner of Cantwell and formed for the purpose of watching over matters related to Mt. McKinley Park, had asked you to formulate legislation concerning this name change. She also noted that a resolution to this effect had been passed by the Democratic State Convention in Nome last May.

There has been much discussion over the years that the name McKinley was quite inappropriate for this peak in that President McKinley had never visited Alaska. In addition, it was the opinion of the late Vin Hoeman, long interested in geographic names in Alaska, that land features should not be named after persons. Most know that Denali means "The Great One" and was the name given this mountain by native Alaskans.

We hope you will be able to obtain legislative support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Dona Agosti

Dona Agosti (Mrs. L.J.)
Secretary

cc: Ev Drashner

DENALI CITIZEN'S COUNCIL
P.O. Box 39
McKinley Park, Alaska 99755

31 January 1975

Senator John Sackett
Pouch V, The Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

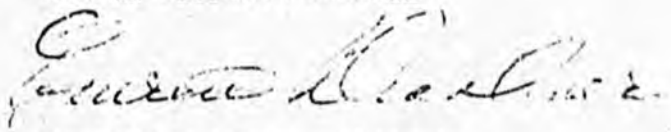
Dear Senator Sackett;

We of Denali Citizens Council urge you to support a resolution soon to be introduced by Senator John Sackett which would restore the name "Denali" to Mt. McKinley.

There is an increasing interest in maintaining the integrity of our great natural features and it is most appropriate that the original native name be restored. "Denali", the Athabascan Indian designation, means "The Great One" or "The Most High". In their name is reflected the reverence and respect these people had for this magnificent mountain. By contrast, the current name, honoring a non-Alaskan who had no relevant association with the Mountain, is inappropriate.

Senator Sackett's measure should be appearing before the Senate during the second week of February. We will appreciate your help in passing this resolution. A strong show of concern from our Alaskan legislature will greatly increase the likelihood that the United States Board on Geographic Names will give serious consideration to restoring the name "Denali".

Sincerely,
DENALI CITIZENS COUNCIL


Everett Drashnor, Chairman

Hope these letters help!

Deneki Lakes
McKinley Park Alaska 99755
February 10, 1975

Senator John Sackett
Pouch V, The Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Sackett:

We are writing to indicate our strong support of your resolution to restore the indian name, "Denali," to Mt, McKinley.

It is most appropriate that the mountain's name be descriptive and that it reflect the reverence that the Athapaskan Indians had for it. We hope that the United States Board on Geographic Names will give serious consideration to the renaming upon a strong show of support from the Alaskan legislature.

Sincerely,

Wallace A Cole
Jerryne Cole

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace A. Cole

February 8, 1975.

F.
McKenny

Senator John Sackett
Alaska Senate
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Senator Sackett,

Heartly congratulations on your resolution to rename our mighty mountain Denali. We have long felt that this should be done. Let's preserve the fame or infamy of man by naming only man-made features after him.

Our home is on the side of the Chugach range from where we have a view extending from Denali to Iliamna. Over the years we have had visitors from many parts of the country and they have all preferred the old names and enjoyed the legend of Mt. Suislaw. I intend to write to them and ask them to write to their Congressmen, Secretary Morton, and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in support of your resolution.

If there is anything beyond writing letters which we can do, please let us know. Would petitions help?

Yours very truly,
Doris M. Fisk

Mrs. H. Roy Fisk
Star Route A, Box 395K
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

7
McKinley

Denali Citizens' Council Studies Mt. McKinley Development, Growth

By GREG WOLF
Times Staff Writer

Concerned with the growth and development of Mt. McKinley National Park and the surrounding areas, a group of resident Alaskans along with a few from Outside has incorporated as the Denali Citizens' Council.

Membership has risen from the 30 founding members in the spring of 1973 to today's total of 150. For the most part, the members make their residence in Fairbanks, Anchorage or the Cantwell area but some are from the Lower 48.

This fall the council incorporated and began making contacts with federal, state and local officials concerned with national and state parks as well as land use and management.

According to Everett Drashner, chairman of the council, "We are making a practice of inviting state and federal agency leaders to come to our meetings or send us information that will be of



EVERETT DRASHNER
Council Chairman

use to our meetings or send us information that will be of use to our cause; we want to be informed. Some groups take too narrow of an approach to a problem and tend to forget

about other views or opinions."

Drashner, a 20-year homesteader in the Cantwell area, has headed the council since its incorporation and is concerned vitally with assuring sensible, well planned development of both the national park and the land along the Anchorage-to-Fairbanks highway.

Among the issues the council is involved with are renaming Mt. McKinley to the Indian name of Denali, the cooperative planning and management zone proposals and the proposed north and south additions to the existing McKinley National Park.

On re-naming Mt. McKinley the council has received support from several organizations, including the Mountaineering Club of Alaska, both the Anchorage and Fairbanks Environmental Centers and various native groups. Along with the organizations, the council also has received letters of

encouragement from naturalists Margaret Murie and Bradford Washburn.

Washburn stated, "Needless to say I'm solidly in favor of the return to Denali — and Denali's Wife for Mt. Foraker — I hope the Alaskan Legislature does something about it and then sends the result of its action to the board of geographic names for hoped-for action. Denali is a magnificent name, and it would never have been changed if Dickey (1896) had known about it when he suggested McKinley."

William Dickey, an Alaskan prospector, was impressed by the beauty and grandeur of the huge peaks at the head of the Chulitna River and in a subsequent expedition in 1896 carried out several preliminary surveys of the peaks. From his survey he determined its height to be well over 20,000 feet.

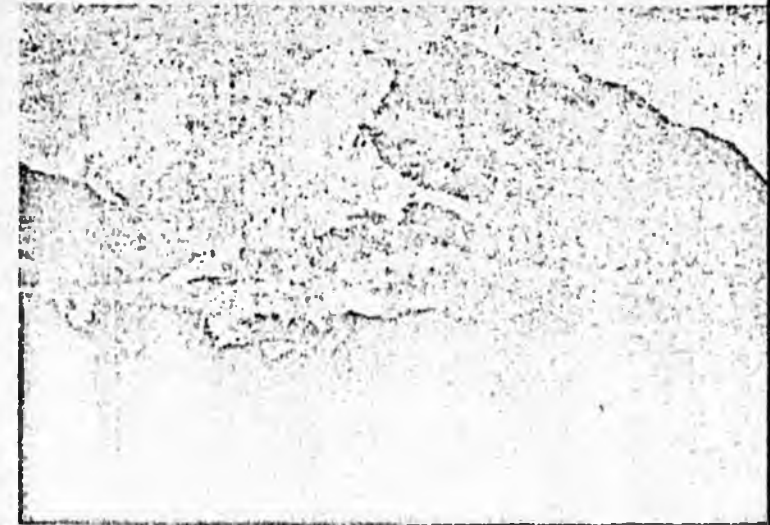
Later the next year, Dickey described his visits to the enormous peaks in an article

published in the New York Sun on Jan. 24, 1897. He explained, "We named our great peak Mt. McKinley after William McKinley of Ohio, who had been nominated for the presidency, and that fact was the first news we received on our way out of the wonderful wilderness."

Twenty-two years later in 1917 Mt. McKinley National Park was established and the name of the peak has stuck ever since.

Drashner stated that the council's top priority is a cooperative planning and management zone that is being debated by several groups. The zone, which borders north to Healy, south to Talkeetna and east to the Susitna River, is being studied by the Joint Federal State Land Use Planning Commission.

According to Drashner, it is the hope of the council to "be one of the groups instrumental in creating policy for future management and planning for the area."



MOUNTAIN IS COUNCIL FOCUS

Majestic Mt. McKinley is the focus of a newly-incorporated group called the Denali Citizens' Council. The council proposals include the renaming of the mountain to Denali, the Indian name for the mountain.

BOOKS

With illustrations
1974

The Book Cuts

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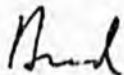
February 18, 1975

Dear Lowell:

I gather that, although there may be very little flak about changing the name of Mount McKinley to Denali, there may be fireworks about changing the name of the park, as that requires a new act of congress. You might give thought to changing the name of the mountain to Denali (and Foraker to Denali's Wife) but changing the park to McKinley National Park, omitting only the Mount. This would obviously be much easier to initiate in a Republican administration than a Democratic, as foul play might otherwise be alleged by Republicans!

Good luck!

Sincerely yours,



Bradford Washburn

Lt. Governor Lowell Thomas, Jr.
State of Alaska
Juneau, AK 99801

STATE OF ALASKA
RECEIVED
FEB 21 1975
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR