

SJR

54

COMMITTEE REPORT

SENATE

6/1/78

FURTHER: None

Date: 6/4/78

Mr. President:

The Committee on RESOURCES has had SJR 54  
exemption of Alaska from section 603 of the BLM Organic Act

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee reports it back as follows)

- recommends it do pass                      ( ) recommends it do not pass
- ( ) recommends it do pass with attached amendment(s)
- ( ) recommends it be replaced with CS for \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) new title              ( ) same title

- ( ) AND attaches a Letter of Intent              ( ) New Fiscal Note
- ( ) reports it back without recommendation
- ( ) and recommends it be referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Chairman

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May 31, 1978

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
411 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ted:

Enclosed is a copy of my comments on the BLM's draft Wilderness Review Procedures. Am sure you are familiar with Sec. 1307 of H.R. 39 as it moved between House Committees. I believe every effort should be made to see that a similar provision remains in the final bill as it passes the Congress.

As you may know, WGM has been denied a permit to construct an airstrip to serve two very promising deposits north of Kotzebue; one held by General Crude and Houston Oil & Minerals, and the other by Cominco. These deposits are near enough to each other to be served by a common airstrip. They are on 17(d)(1) lands. This action is, in effect, denying the right of reasonable access to develop valid existing mining claims which is guaranteed under the mining laws.

In another case, a supply train with tracked vehicles and sleds moving fuel and other supplies over the snow early this spring, and on an existing mine road along the upper Tok River southeast of Fairbanks, was stopped by BLM in the field. The destination was valid claims staked on state selected lands. In both cases the movement of needed materials by helicopter would be economically prohibitive, considering the advanced stage of development and the distances involved.

It is because of these incidents, and the policies of BLM as applied in the field, even before finalization of their Wilderness Review Procedures and the application of Sec. 603 of FLMPA, that serious consideration should be given to amending FLMPA. The provisions of Sec. 603 should not apply to the remainder of Alaska public lands following the final identification of the National Interest Lands.

Your comments on the above suggestion, and critique of the enclosed statement, would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Phil R. Holdsworth, P.E.

cc: Senator Poland ✓  
Representative Osterback