

HB

204

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

FURTHER: FINANCE

2/20/81

(11)

Date: 4/10/81

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on RESOURCES has had HB 204

"An Act making an appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources for range surveys on the Seward Peninsula; and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for HB 204 same title
 new title
- and recommends DO PASS
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

**MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS**

[Signature]

R. B. Bennett

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

**MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

[Signature]
cc - CHAIRMAN

Psd out Cmte Sub.

<u>Funding Information</u>	
General Fund	\$260,000
Other Funds	-0-
	<u>\$260,000</u>

Introduced: 2/20/81
 Referred: Resources and
 Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE BY FULLER AND ADAMS

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 204

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act making an appropriation to the Department of
 7 Natural Resources for range surveys on the Seward
 8 Peninsula; and providing for an effective date."

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

10 * Section 1. The sum of \$260,000 is appropriated from the general fund
 11 to the Department of Natural Resources for range surveys in cooperation with
 12 the ~~Bureau of Land Management~~ *Soil Conservation Service, USDA* on the Seward Peninsula.

13 * Sec. 2. The unexpended and unobligated portion of the appropriation
 14 made by this Act lapses into the general fund on June 30, 1983.

15 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-
 16 070(c).

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STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

POUCH A
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687
PHONE: (907) 376-3276

April 3, 1981

APR 09 1981

Representative Jack Fuller
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

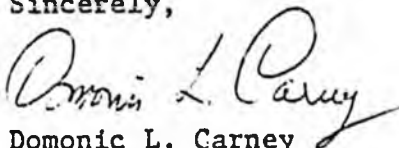
Dear Representative Fuller:

The State, with the cooperation of the USDA, Soil Conservation Service, has completed the first three years of a five year range survey program for the Seward Peninsula. Costs for the program are split between the Federal Government and the State.

Through an oversight, the legislature last year neglected to appropriate funds for the fourth (and fifth and final) year's survey efforts. The \$260,000 appropriation requested by HB204 will rectify that oversight, and we favor passage. If the supplemental appropriation is not forthcoming, the survey will be delayed for a minimum of one, and probably two years. Completion of the survey is vital to expansion of the reindeer industry in the area. Without the information it will provide, a sound range management plan cannot be formulated or followed.

We would suggest one revision of HB204. The appropriation is for surveys in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. We would suggest this be changed to the US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. That agency has performed the first three year's survey, and has provided the matching staff and funds for the previous effort. I seriously doubt if the project could be completed by moving responsibility for its completion to BLM.

Sincerely,



Domonic L. Carney
Director

cc: Jeff Haynes
Wayne Long
Ross Schaff



KAWERAK, INC.

P.O. BOX 948 • NOME, ALASKA 99762

(907) 443-5231

November 24, 1980

Mr. Robert E. LeResche, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
Pouch M
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Commissioner LeResche:

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) range surveys on the Seward Peninsula will be limited and curtailed for the 1981 field season; because of HB 891 dying in its process, during the 1980 legislative session.

The Reindeer Herders' Association (RHA) needs your support in approaching the appropriate state legislators and committees in sponsoring and co-sponsoring a bill for a supplemental budget funding of \$130,000., for 1981 to accelerate the range survey program by expanding the current field effort and to support increased staff and logistic requirements of SCS.

The funding of range surveys and related activities have to be continuing; instead of on an annual basis, which have been the case in past. If a two (2) year funding for range surveys was appropriated for the amount of \$260,000.; it would guarantee the continuation and completion of the range surveys needed to develop coordinated range management plans. As stated in the Reindeer Herders' Association, "A Plan of Action for Alaska's Reindeer Industry", "... The range management plan provide the herders with the basis for comprehensive herd management plans, which propose acceptable stocking rates, grazing rotation systems, and travel routes to avoid conflicts with wildlife and other reindeer herds. Expediting the range surveys and range management plans would allow, the individual herd management plans to be completed earlier, providing a stable basis for industry development."...

The range surveys cannot be curtailed or limited, when they are approximately half completed. ..." These (management) plans will reflect the opportunities and constraints, both environmental and financial, of each herd owner and especially tailored to the herder's needs and objectives. Various agency mandates and land use plans will be taken into consideration during development of these plans to insure their compatibility with landowners."... Another excerpt from RHA's, "A Plan of Action for Alaska's Reindeer Industry". Commissioner LeResche as you can see, the formulative stage(s) of our reindeer industry is solely dependent on timely completion and intergration of these surveys, which is an essential step in the industry's

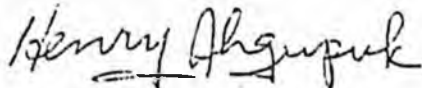
development of comprehensive reindeer herd and range management plans for the Seward Peninsula and the other reindeer herds in Alaska.

In behalf of the Reindeer Herders' Association members consisting of fifteen (15) reindeer herds on the Seward Peninsula and St. Lawrence Island; Tanaqusix Corp., Inc. who represents St. Paul Island, St. George Island and Umnak Island reindeer herds; Nunivak Island and Atka Island reindeer herds and the Reindeer Herders Association president, Larry Davis; I am formally requesting through your office, to initiate the legislative process of submitting a bill for supplemental funding of \$130,000, for 1981 range surveys and/or \$260,000 for the 1981/1982 field seasons.

Sitnasuak Native Corporation and Tom Gray, two(2) non-voting members, of Nome and Council, respectively, and the Togiak/Hagemeister Island reindeer herds stand to benefit and gain a great deal from the spin-off value of the range surveys being conducted on the Seward Peninsula and the expertise that the Reindeer Herders' Association have accumulated over the years of our administrative operations.

I want to thank you for any forth-coming and continuing support and assistance that you can give to the Reindeer Herders' Association.

Respectfully yours,



Henry Ahgupuk
Program Coordinator
Reindeer Herders' Association

CC: Larry Davis, President
Reindeer Herders' Association

Senator Frank Ferguson
Senator George H. Hohman, Jr.
Senator Bob Mulcahy
Representative John "Jack" Fuller
Representative Albert P. Adams
Representative Eric G. Sutcliffe
Representative Joseph Chuckwuk
Representative Tony Vaska

Mr. Weymeth E. Long
State Conservationist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

Mr. T.G. Smith, Director
Division of Forest, Land and Water Management
323 East 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

files

Reindeer Range Surveys

In 1975, the Reindeer Herders Association and the NANA Regional Corporation asked SCS and BLM to work with them in developing range management plans for the Reindeer grazing permit areas in the NANA region. As a result of that request, field surveys of the range and soils were completed during the following year. Range plans were developed with individual herders in the region in 1977 using the information gathered in the range and soil survey. We are continuing to work with the reindeer herders and BLM in range investigations on the surveyed areas. To help understand vegetation responses to fire, reindeer grazing and wildlife, the following evaluations are being made:

Grazing Use Checks - Use checks are necessary to determine the amount of forage used by the reindeer. It is also important to evaluate soil erosion, water quality and possible problems with wildlife and waterfowl.

During the 1978 summer season, SCS and BLM checked winter and summer range units for the NANA corporation. Over 30 miles of transects were walked to check grazing use. Permanent photo plots have been established to record plant condition and the information has been permanently recorded. The plots will be checked as needed.

Wildfire and Range - The 1977 wildfire area between the Kugruk and Inmachuk is also being checked by photo plots. We are interested to know the rate at which lichens reestablish in a burn and how the other plants react to wildfire.

Planting Lichens - Burned areas and poor condition ranges which have potential to grow lichen, possibly can be planted to lichen. We are exploring the possibility of testing this procedure at the Plant Materials Center at Palmer.

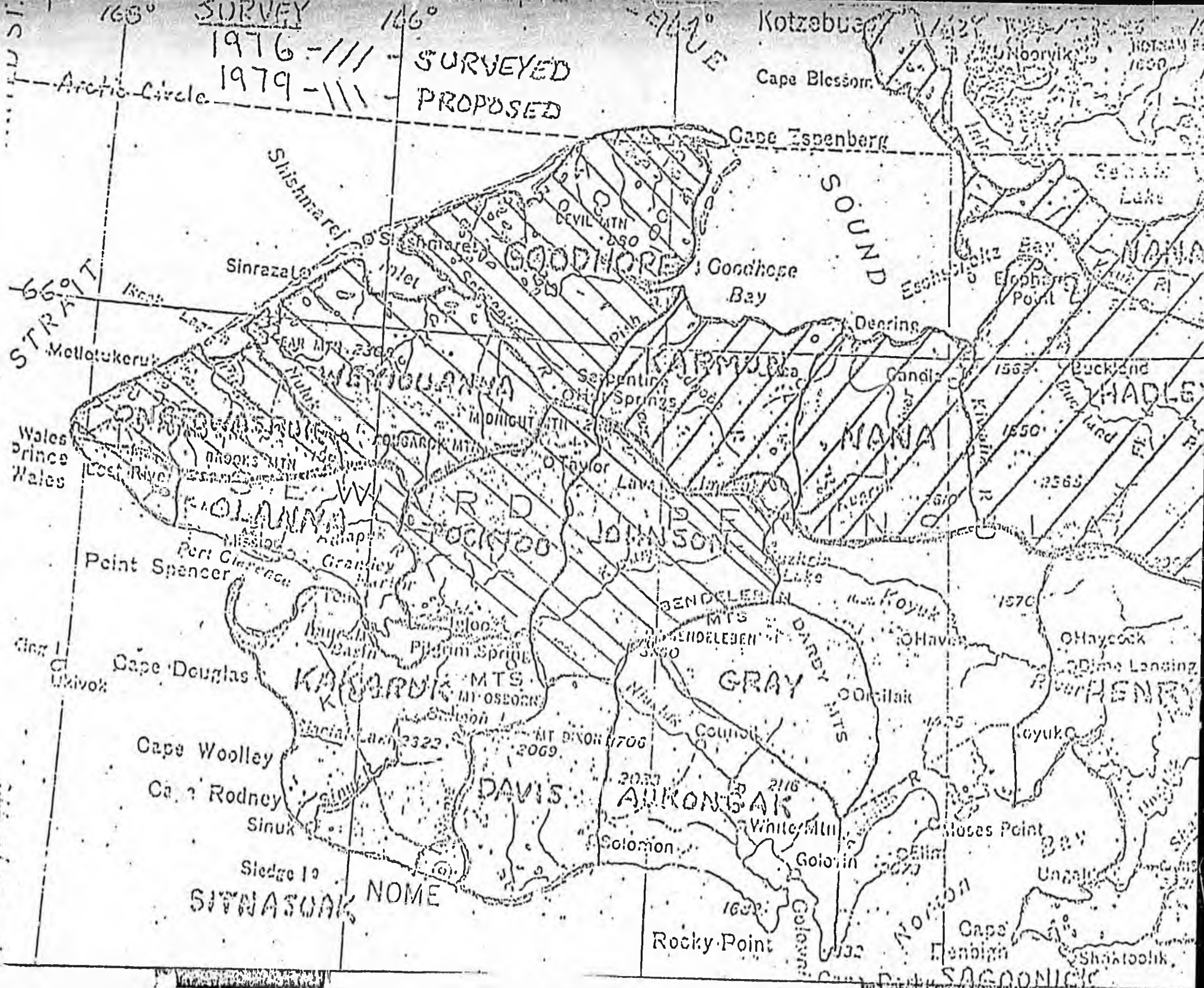
Snow Surveys on Reindeer Ranges - The winter range is one of the most limiting factors to reindeer management. Associated with the winter range is the snowpack with a variety of combinations of density, crusting, layering hardness, and depth. These varying snow conditions frequently make feed unavailable to the reindeer. Snow surveys to evaluate the relationship of reindeer foraging in different snow conditions have been started.

Present Survey Status

At present, we are coordinating plans with the NPS, BLM, Bering Straits Corporation, and State of Alaska to continue the Range and Soil Survey in the western portion of the Seward Peninsula. The proposed survey area for 1979 includes the Godhope, Weyiouana, Ongtowsruk, and part of Tocktoo, Olanna, and Johnson permit areas (attachment 1). Landsat imagery in combination with NASA color infrared photographs will provide a source for interpretation. Field crews collecting soil and plant production data will spend about six weeks with a helicopter to survey approximately 4 million acres. The information will be published as an interim report by May 1980, and will eventually be incorporated into a general soil survey report for the entire Seward Peninsula, to be completed in approximately five years.

T. G. Freeman
Soil Conservation Service

163° SURVEY 166°
1976 - III - SURVEYED
1979 - III - PROPOSED



Alaska Land Managers Cooperative Task Force
Reindeer Range Surveys and Range Management
on the Seward Peninsula Subcommittee

The Reindeer Range Surveys and Range Management Subcommittee met on October 17, 1978, at 9:30 a.m., at the SCS conference room in Anchorage. Those present were: Tom Schoder, Bureau of Land Management; Fran Mauer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Richard Stern, Alaska Division of Lands; Dan Karmun, Reindeer Herders Association; Alan Epps, Cooperative Extension Service; Ted Freeman, Soil Conservation Service; Dave Swanson, Soil Conservation Service; Wayne Long, Soil Conservation Service; Gerry Gilliland, Department of Interior; Paul Gates, Department of Interior; James Fisher, Department of Agriculture; Ray Kramer, Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Others who were invited but were not able to attend were: Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Division of Agriculture, National Park Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Long reviewed how and why the "Alaska Land Managers Cooperative Task Force" was established. He also discussed the reasons for setting up the "Reindeer Range Surveys and Range Management Subcommittee."

Mr. Gilliland said that the Land Managers Task Force operated on a consensus basis and that it was expected that all participants agree or the subject would not be pursued. It was recommended that the reindeer subcommittee operate on the same basis. Mr. Gilliland also stated that a purpose of the subcommittee is to help identify any problems early so there will be an opportunity to solve them before they become too large.

Dan Karmun reviewed the plans and goals of the Reindeer Herders Association to further the growth of the industry on the Seward Peninsula. Mr. Karmun discussed the need to continue the range and soil surveys that have been started in the area. Mr. Karmun briefly reviewed the conflicts of caribou herds on reindeer permit areas. He also distributed copies of resolutions passed at the recent Herders Association meeting in Shishmaref.

Each of the agencies attending gave a brief resume of their interests and concerns regarding reindeer on the Seward Peninsula. It was brought out that all of the present or proposed land management agencies, including BLM, NPS, F&WLS, and State of Alaska will permit reindeer herding.

Dave Swanson showed copies of the range and soil surveys that were carried out on the reindeer range in the NANA Regional Corporation area. The field work for those surveys was done during the summer of 1976 under the terms of a cooperative agreement among SCS, BLM, Alaska Soil Conservation District, and the NANA Regional Corporation. Mr. Swanson reviewed how the surveys are used to develop management plans with individual herders, and the procedure for making range evaluations to determine impact from grazing and wildfire.

There was unanimous agreement that the range and soil surveys need to be carried out on the remainder of the Seward Peninsula (approximately 15 million acres). It was also agreed that the survey methods used and format in which the information is presented are satisfactory.

SCS reported that plans are being made to conduct soil and range surveys again next summer in the area west of the present survey boundary. This is the priority area identified by the Reindeer Herders Association.

During the discussion of the scope of efforts the subcommittee should undertake, the following were agreed upon:

- 1) The subcommittee should identify the interest and objectives of agencies, Regional Native Corporations, and other land holders on the Seward Peninsula.
- 2) As ownerships change it will be important that the Land Managers Task Force and the Reindeer Subcommittee serve as a focal point to resolve problems as they man develop.
- 3) The subcommittee should assist in developing parameters for statewide policy formulation regarding reindeer management.
- 4) Other groups that may be concerned with reindeer grazing should be listed so they may be kept informed of the activities of the subcommittee. These would include the Alaska Rural Development Council and several Native Regional Corporations.
- 5) The committee should address biological parameters such as predator control and disease control as well as land use coordination.
- 6) The subcommittee should attempt to have the stipulations of National Reindeer Act implemented.

The next meeting of the Reindeer Subcommittee will be held on November 28, at 8:30 a.m. at the SCS conference room, 2221 East Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, Alaska. Agenda topics will include:

- 1) A report on the meeting held in Kotzebue on October 19 to be was attended by NANA Regional Corporation, BLM, ADF&G, and SCS.
- 2) Report on plans for range surveys next summer.
- 3) Reports from agencies and corporations listing the areas of conflict and policies they have that may be a problem to the reindeer industry.

T. G. Freeman
T. G. Freeman
Subcommittee Chairman