

SJR

44

* The Southeast Alaska Information Center Study continues under the auspices of the Alaska Land Use Council. The Council Work Group is chaired by the Forest Service and includes membership of a number of State and Federal agencies as well as native interests. The Work Group has worked closely with the three communities and is now completing the review of proposals from the communities. A final report and recommendation from the Work Group is expected to be available for review by the communities, ALUC members and others by April 23. Council action on the Work Group recommendation is scheduled for the May Council meeting, the date of which has not been established. The Communities may also wish to present their proposals directly to the Council.

Juneau, by action of the City and Borough Council, chooses to not compete for the Cooperative Center citing as its reasons that Sitka and Ketchikan are having more difficult economic problems than Juneau is experiencing at this time. The City and Borough of Juneau is to be commended for this action and the broad view of cooperation among Southeast Communities which it represents. Sitka and Ketchikan should also be commended. Each community put considerable effort into developing strong professional proposals. I certainly do not envy the Work Group their task of putting together a recommendation. However, the Cooperative Center will not be just a Sitka or Ketchikan Center but rather a Southeast Center. Through a continuation of the strong support and cooperation among all of the Southeast communities, the Cooperative Visitor Center will be a success that all of Southeast and indeed Alaska can be proud of.

I again appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Southeast Conference. Even more, I appreciate the generally strong cooperative efforts we have underway to strengthen the economy of this important Region.

I know major problems remain but believe we can effectively deal with them through this cooperative effort and spirit.

* EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY REG.
FORESTER JOHN SANDOR TO SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE.
- 8 -

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



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Senate

Committee on Resources

MINUTES

April 23, 1984
3:03 pm

Beltz Room
Room 211, Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senator Ziegler, Vice Chairman
Senator Eliason
Senator Paul Fischer
Senator Vic Fischer
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Sturgulewski

CALENDAR

CSHB 376, An Act amending the Limited Entry Act; providing for landing permits.

CSSB 624, An Act relating to qualifications for a homesite.

HJR 19, Relating to United States observers on foreign fishing vessels.

SJR 44, Requesting the establishment of an Alaska National Interest Lands Act information and education center in Ketchikan.

HJR 19

Representative Grussendorf, sponsor of the resolution, explained that CS HJR 19 requests the U.S. Congress to amend the Magnuson Act to ensure that U.S. observers be stationed aboard all foreign fishing boats in the Fishery Conservation Zone.

Senator Mulcahy moved CS HJR 19 from committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

CSHB 376

Christine Kelly, Licensing Administrator, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, explained that the fiscal note for HB 376 was to cover costs that would be incurred if the commissioner finds that landing permits should be issued in several fisheries in FY 85.

Senator Mulcahy moved that the fiscal note be eliminated and moved SCS CSHB 376 (Res) from committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

HB 624

Sandra Schubert, Aide to Senator Fahrenkamp, explained that CSHB 624 amends the homesite program to conform with the homestead program by allowing transfer of a homesite entry permit in the case of an extreme emergency or illness that disables the applicant.

Senator Mulcahy moved CSHB 624 from committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

SJR 44

Senator Ziegler spoke in support of the resolution.

Senator Eliason explained that Sitka is also a potential site for the center, and supported its location there.

Senator Ziegler moved CS SJR 44 from committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.

**Sitka
Visitors
Bureau**



TO: SENATE RESOURCE COMMITTEE
FROM: THE SITKA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
RE: SENATE RESOLUTION 44

THE SITKA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU IS OPPOSED TO THE SENATE RESOURCE COMMITTEE TAKING A STAND ON THE LOCATION OF THE ANILCA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER TO BE LOCATED IN EITHER SITKA OR KETCHIKAN. IT SHOULDN'T BE THE UNDERTAKING OF YOUR COMMITTEE TO SET THE COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, BUT RATHER, TO ALLOW THE PRESENTATIONS OF EACH OF THESE COMMUNITIES TO STAND ON THEIR OWN MERIT.



Sen. J. ...
GREATER SITKA

Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

April 20, 1984

To: All Members of the Senate Resources Committee

The Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes
SJR 44 - Requesting the Establishment of an ANILCA
Information and Education Center in Ketchikan. We feel
this is not a legislative function.

Sincerely,

Dave Knapp
Dave Knapp,
President

DK:kf

cc: Assembly -
City and Borough of Sitka

APR 23 1984

Bill Withers

TO: SANDRA
FM: EDIE
RE: SJR 44 - establishing an ANILCA visiting center in Ketchikan
DT: 3/20/84

Section 1305 of ANILCA authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Interior "to investigate and plan for an information and education center for visitors to Alaska" in Fairbanks, Tok, and Anchorage.

The Visitor Center in Tok has been established; the Fairbanks and Anchorage centers will be established in the old federal buildings of each town in August 1984 and May 1985 respectively. All three centers receive, or will receive, money in whole or in part by the U.S. Park Service.

Janet McCabe of the U.S. Park Service is responsible for organizing the establishment of each Northern office. At the time of this writing, she was not available to speak with. I understand she'll be in Juneau on Wednesday, 3/21, and hopefully I'll be able to reach her then.

Section 1305 of ANILCA authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture "to investigate and plan for, in a similar manner, an information and education center for visitors to Alaska in either Juneau, Ketchikan, or Sitka, Alaska." Unlike the other three offices, a site for the Southeast office is not designated in statute and the Department responsible for it's location is Agriculture, not Interior.

David Allen of the U.S. Forest Service has responsibility for the Department of Agriculture to handle the investigation end of determining the best site for the Southeast office. He was not available to talk to today, so Walt Sheridan of the local U.S. Forest Service office filled me in.

Sheridan says that the Alaska Land Use Council will make a recommendation this Spring to the Department of Agriculture on a site for the information center. The Council designated a number of state and federal agencies to work with Dave on:

1) Gathering an inventory from the three communities being considered on what facilities they have available, or could make available, for a information center.

2) Coming up with a "selection criteria" for a site. ie, how many tourists visit each community a year, what they do when they're there, what they're interested in, what the variety of transportation access there is to each community and what the schedules are for each mode of transportation, etc.

Upon completion of this task, the Council Task Group has asked each community to submit a written proposal for a visitor center and to prepare to submit that proposal orally to members of the Task Group. Once this has been completed, the Task Group does a summary of requirements 1 & 2 and a summary of the proposals. They then submit that with a recommendation to the Alaska Land Use Council. The Council in turn makes a recommendation to the Department of Agriculture.

Juneau has recently requested that they no longer be considered a site for the Center, so the decision will be made between Ketchikan and Sitka. David Allen is presently in Ketchikan taking their written and oral proposal. He has already received it from Sitka, and should be back in Juneau on Friday.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE HERE THAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE RECOMMENDING A SITE ONLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO THE TOURISTS IS THE NEXT PHASE OF THIS PROCESS AND WON'T BE ADDRESSED UNTIL A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON THE LOCATION.

Also, regardless of the conflict between the Resolution superseding what is required under 1305, 1305 also states, with respect to the Southeast office, that "No information center shall be developed pursuant to investigations and plans conducted under authority of this section unless and until such development is specifically authorized by Congress." [I've enclosed a copy of 1305 for your reference].

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the establishment of an
6 Alaska National Interest Lands Act
7 information and education center in
8 Ketchikan.

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

10 WHEREAS the United States Forest Service and other [state and] federal
11 agencies are required by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
12 Act (ANILCA) to evaluate the feasibility of establishing four regional
13 visitor information and education centers in Alaska; and

14 WHEREAS ^{an} ANILCA center ^{has} ~~have~~ been established in Tok, ^{and} Anchorage and
15 Fairbanks; ~~and~~ ^{are designated in Sec. 1305 of ANILCA as additional}
16 ^{sites for ANILCA centers}

17 WHEREAS the cities of Ketchikan, Sitka, and Juneau are being evaluated
18 for the fourth regional center site; and

19 WHEREAS the City of Ketchikan is the gateway to Southeast Alaska and
20 is usually the first port of call for most visitors traveling in the south-
21 eastern region; and

22 WHEREAS the City of Ketchikan has actively supported tourism through
23 the development or shared development and operation of such facilities as:

- 24 1. the Totem Heritage Center, that houses a major sites col-
25 lection of Southeast Alaska totems and Native art and artifacts;
- 26 2. the port of Ketchikan, the point of arrival for 155 cruise
27 ships and nearly 100,000 visitors in 1983;
- 28 3. a convention and hotel site near Ketchikan's downtown; and
- 29 4. the City of Ketchikan Museum; and

WHEREAS the City of Ketchikan further supports tourism through a

1 transient room tax, the proceeds of which are used to underwrite the op-
2 erations of the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, with a total city contribution
3 of \$97,000 in 1983; and

4 WHEREAS an ANILCA center located in Ketchikan would provide the
5 earliest possible opportunity for visitors to obtain information and
6 assistance on the features and opportunities in Southeast Alaska; and

7 WHEREAS an ANILCA center would further ^{complement} compliment efforts of the City
8 of Ketchikan, Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, and other local private and public
9 agencies to promote and improve travel and visitor opportunities in South-
10 east Alaska;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
12 the United States Congress to establish and fund the fourth regional Alaska
13 National Interest Lands Conservation Act information and education center
14 in the City of Ketchikan.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John Block,
16 Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable William Clark, Secretary of the
17 Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
18 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
19 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.