

H B

186

COMMITTEE REPORT
SENATE

FURTHER: ~~RESOURCES~~ CDRA
Finance

4/11/85

Date April 25, 1985

Mr. President

The Committee on STATE AFFAIRS considered CSHB 186(Res)
creating the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.

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

- do pass
- do pass with attached amendment(s)
- replace with/or adopt CS for _____
- new title
- same title and recommends _____
- and attached a "LETTER OF INTENT" NEW FISCAL NOTE
- reports it back without recommendation
- recommends referral to _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

Ed. Hoover

V. Fischer

Tim Kelly

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

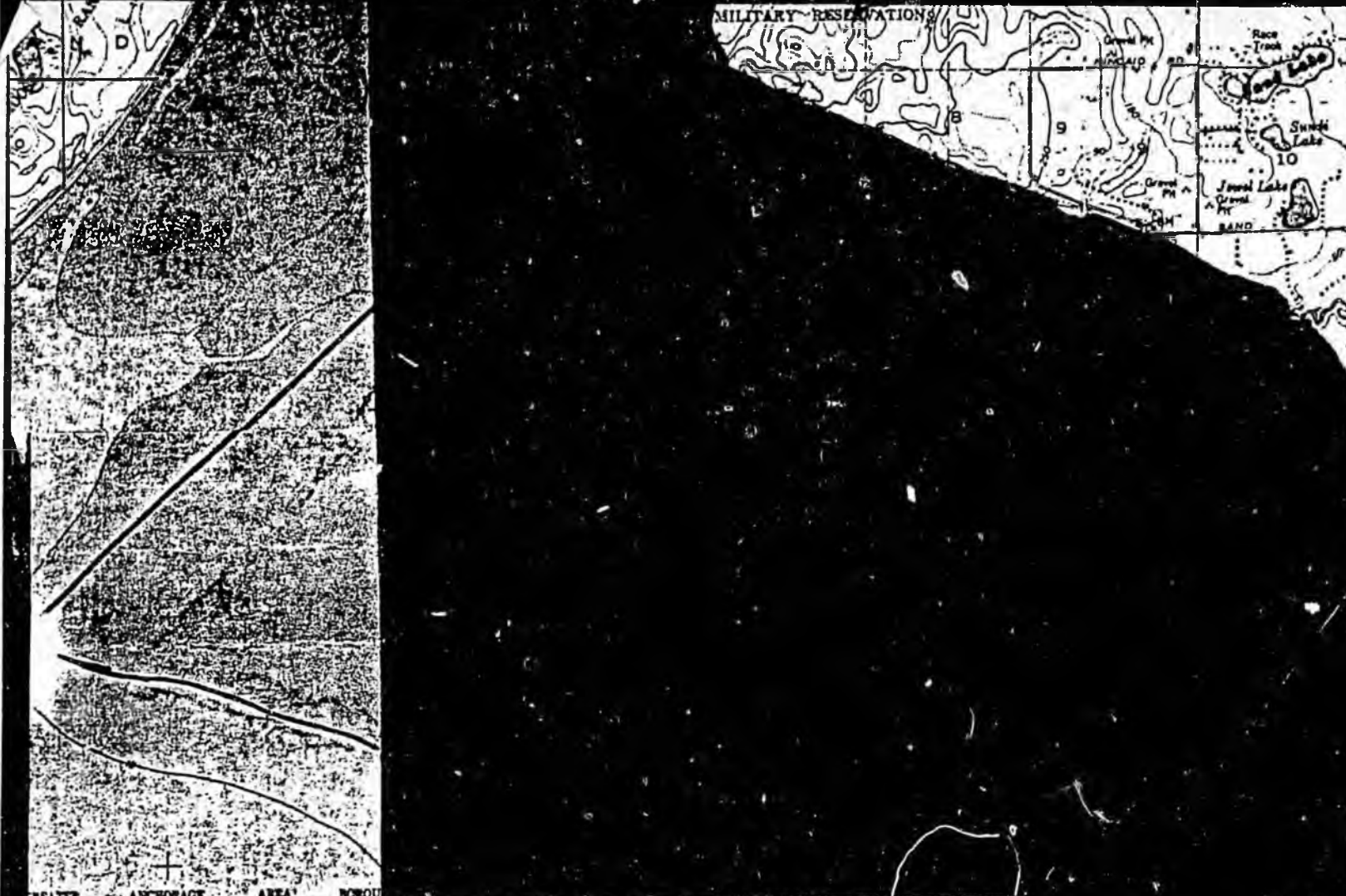
[Signature]

Chairman

[Signature]

Chairman recommendation





THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL
FILE



GREATER ANCHORAGE AREA BOROUGH
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

PROPOSED ANCHORAGE

COASTAL STATE WILDLIFE REFUGE

- State Land 
- Municipal Land 
- Private Lands 
- Alaska Railroad 



This map approximates land ownership patterns in the Proposed Anchorage Coastal State Wildlife Refuge

League of Women Voters of Alaska

9151 Skywood Lane
Juneau, Alaska 99801
April 23, 1985

Senator Mitch Abood, Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: CS HB 186 (Res): Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

Dear Senator Abood:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports establishment of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. We have supported this legislation in the House, and continue to do so in the Senate.

This bill would set aside and protect a unique area that is de facto critical habitat for a large population of water fowl and other wildlife, and which should be preserved in its natural state for the protection of the wildlife and the enjoyment of people who wish to view the wildlife. The availability of such an experience is especially important in a location close to a large population center such as Anchorage, where the experience can be enjoyed by many people, including children and the elderly, and not just those who are able to hike and backpack long distances to remote areas.

Thank you for your considering our views.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Cuadra, State Board Member
(Natural Resources Portfolio)

DEC:lyn/27

cc: Committee Members (DeVries,
Vic Fischer, Ray, and Kelly)

Commissioner Collinsworth (DF&G)
Commissioner Wunnicke (DNR)

Paula Ziegler, LWVAK President



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Representative Mike Szymanski

Finance Committee
Oil and Gas Committee

11920 Johns Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99515
Phone (907) 349-3373

While in Session:
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4975 4979

April 15, 1985

TO: Sen. Mitch Abood, Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: *Mike Szymanski*
Rep. Mike Szymanski

RE: CSHB 186 (Resources) - Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

CSHB 186 (Resources) establishing the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge is currently before the Senate State Affairs Committee. I would like to request the scheduling of this bill for hearing as soon as possible. Enclosed please find a map and background information on the bill. Should you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Thank you very much. I appreciate your consideration of my request.

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folders
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RECEIVED
APR 17 1985



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Representative Mike Szymanski

11920 Johns Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99515
Phone (907) 349-3373

While in Session:
Pouch V

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4978/4979

Finance Committee

Oil and Gas Committee

April 15, 1985

To: Sen. Mitch Abood, Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Rep. Mike Szymanski

Re: Background/Intent of HB 186 - Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

In 1971 the Alaska State Legislature created Potter Point State Game Refuge (AS 16.20.030 (b)) which extends southeasterly along the coastline of Anchorage from Pt. Campbell to Potter Creek. This easily accessible, urban refuge provides excellent wildlife viewing opportunities for city residents, and it enhances the Anchorage economy through its value as a tourist attraction.

In June 1983, the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) established the Potter Marsh Task Force to address management problems that were developing both within and around the refuge, and to subsequently make recommendations for action. This legislation is one of the task force's recommendations for improving management of the refuge, and it is supported by the MOA, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and interested public members.

HB 186 would:

1) Rename the existing Potter Point State Game Refuge the "Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge".

Section 1, AS 16.20.031 (a) would establish the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge to be managed for the protection of waterfowl, shore birds, salmon, and other fish and wildlife species, and their habitat and for the use and enjoyment of the people of the state. Section 3 repeals AS 16.20.030 (b) which is the existing statute establishing the Potter Point State Game Refuge. This new name more accurately reflects the refuge's location and relation to the city of Anchorage.

2) Provide a precise legal description, in surveyable section lines, of the boundaries of the state-owned land and water included in the refuge.

The 1971 legislation reads, "The following described state-owned land and adjacent state water, excluding existing and applied-for highway, pipelines and railway rights-of-way as of May 20, 1971, are established as the Potter Point State Game Refuge: All land and water south and west of and adjacent to the toe of the bluff which extends from Campbell Point southeasterly to Potter Creek." This language does not define any real or measurable limit as to how

far the refuge boundary extends seaward, and the inland boundary is open to wide interpretation. Many times this lack of clarity has resulted in confusion for state agencies, private development interests, and the general public. Therefore HB 186 in Section 1, subsections (1) through (7) describes in detail the legal refuge boundaries.

3) Add additional tidelands and near shore upland to the existing refuge.

The MOA has asked that refuge boundaries be expanded northward from Pt. Campbell to Pt. Woronzof to include municipally owned wetlands within the refuge for management by ADF&G. In 1979, under the Anchorage Coastal Zone Management Plan, these lands were identified as Areas Meriting Special Attention and classified as Preservation Wetlands. Inclusion of these lands within the refuge does not afford them any more protection than they already have under the preservation status, but would facilitate the uniform management of Anchorage's coastal lands. The new boundaries (described in Section 1, subsections (1) through (7)) were cooperatively drawn by the MOA, ADF&G, and DNR.

4) Restrict the state and municipality from acquiring property by eminent domain for inclusion within the refuge.

This would protect private property owners by requiring that property to be included within the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge be acquired through purchase, exchange, or otherwise (Section 1, (e)), and prohibiting acquisition by eminent domain.

5) Provide for management of the refuge by ADF&G and DNR.

Section 1 (b) provides that, as in the past, both ADF&G and DNR would exercise their respective authorities over the refuge, except as provided in Section 1 (d). Management of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge will be consistent with a management plan prepared by the ADF&G under AS 16.20.040 - 16.20.060. The plan will be completed within one year of the effective date of this Act (Section 2).

The management plan prepared by ADF&G shall recommend a corridor for transportation and utilities between Fire Island and the Anchorage mainland (Section 1 (c)). This is to ensure access to the island's landowners for future development and would also be of economic benefit to the MOA.

Hunting, as in the past and in accordance with state regulations, will continue to be allowed on state-owned lands within the refuge west and north of the Alaska Railroad.

While the land and water areas of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge are closed to mineral entry under AS 38.05.185 - 38.05.275, the boundary extension north of Pt. Campbell was drawn so that all previously issued offshore mining permits were excluded from within the refuge. Oil and gas leasing will not be affected (Section 1 (f)) by this legislation.