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Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name

committee on HB# 566, dated 3/26/92
bill/subject

per item (c) Administrative expenses of the
Foundation shall be paid from the income of the
endowment. IF this is the established "Foundation"
THAT is ALREADY giving out grants. Would or will you
Establish that only administrative expenses for each grant
given under this LAW

Also could grants be given for mariculture research
projects such as: oyster remote site settings
oyster harvi project such as
AT SEWARD

Signed: *Lawrence McCubbins*
Testifier Lawrence McCubbins

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 1656 Homer AK 99603-1656
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7-LS2188D
Lauterbach
3/31/92

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 566 (RESOURCES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing an endowment in the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation to
2 fund grants for educational, public affairs, and tourism purposes related to the Exxon
3 Valdez oil spill, to promote environmental monitoring through increased public awareness,
4 and for related marine pollution and coastal habitat education; and providing for an
5 effective date."

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

7 * Section 1. AS 37.17.010(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) The purpose of the foundation is to

9 (1) administer the Alaska science and technology endowment under
10 AS 37.17.020 -37.17.030 and 37.17.090 to promote and enhance, through basic and applied
11 research, [:] economic development and technological innovation in Alaska, [:] public health, [:]
12 telecommunications, [:] and sustained growth and development of Alaskan scientific and
13 engineering capabilities; and

1 (2) administer the Exxon Valdez oil spill endowment under AS 37.17.200 -
2 37.17.290 in order to make grants for educational, public affairs, and tourism purposes
3 related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill, to promote environmental monitoring through
4 increased public awareness, and for related marine pollution and coastal habitat education.

5 * Sec. 2. AS 37.17 is amended by adding new sections to read:

6 ARTICLE 2. EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL ENDOWMENT.

7 Sec. 37.17.200. ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED. (a) The Exxon Valdez oil spill
8 endowment is established in the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation. It consists of

9 (1) money appropriated to it by the legislature from money received by the state
10 as remedial and compensatory payments under the criminal plea agreement between the United
11 States and Exxon Shipping Company and Exxon Corporation in United States of America v.
12 Exxon Corporation and Exxon Shipping Company, United States District Court, District of
13 Alaska, No. A90-015 CR;

14 (2) other money appropriated to it by the legislature; and

15 (3) gifts, grants, and other aid received by the foundation under AS 37.17.210(b).

16 (b) Notwithstanding other provisions of AS 37.17.200 - 37.17.290, money appropriated
17 to the fund under (a)(1) of this section is restricted to uses consistent with restrictions placed on
18 use of the money by the federal court that approved the plea agreement described in (a)(1) of this
19 section. To the extent that a provision of AS 37.17.200 - 37.17.290 violates the restrictions of
20 the federal court, the provision is superseded by the federal court restriction.

21 (c) The endowment shall be held and invested by the Alaska Permanent Fund
22 Corporation subject to AS 37.13.120; however, net income from the endowment shall be
23 distributed under AS 37.17.200 - 37.17.290. Net income from the endowment may not be
24 included in the computation of net income available for distribution under AS 37.13.140.

25 Sec. 37.17.210. ENDOWMENT INCOME AND EXPENSES. (a) The distribution of
26 the income and realized capital gains of the endowment is subject to AS 37.07. The net annual
27 realized capital gains of the endowment may be equally divided between the income and the
28 principal of the endowment. Upon application of the foundation's board of directors or its
29 authorized representative, after authorization under AS 37.07, the Alaska Permanent Fund
30 Corporation shall pay to the foundation the income appropriated.

31 (b) In addition to endowment income, the foundation may receive gifts, grants, and other

1 aid. The foundation may accumulate income, gifts, grants, and other aid from any one year and
2 distribute them in a later year.

3 (c) The administrative expenses of the foundation are subject to AS 37.07 and shall be
4 paid from the income of the endowment.

5 (d) The board shall distribute the income of the endowment through competitive grants
6 under AS 37.17.220. The board may disburse money that is received by the foundation for
7 special or general purposes.

8 (e) Subject to AS 37.07, the board may pay into the principal of the endowment any part
9 of the endowment income. Money paid to the principal under this subsection may not later be
10 withdrawn by the board.

11 Sec. 37.17.220. GRANT PROGRAM. (a) Subject to AS 37.17.200(b) and terms and
12 conditions set by the board, the board shall make grants from the income of the endowment for
13 educational, public affairs, and tourism purposes related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill, to promote
14 environmental monitoring through increased public awareness, and for related marine pollution
15 and coastal habitat education. Educational projects funded by a grant may include youth
16 education, adult education, tourism-related education, and other public education and information.

17 (b) The board shall provide adequate and appropriate notice of all solicitations for grant
18 proposals throughout the area of the Exxon Valdez oil spill of March 1989 at least once a year.
19 The board shall attempt to distribute grants so that projects throughout the spill area are funded.

20 (c) The board may not give one recipient more than 30 percent of the funds available for
21 grants in a year.

22 (d) The board may establish volunteer advisory committees to review, screen, and
23 recommend grant proposals for funding by the board. The presiding officers of the advisory
24 committees may participate in discussions by the board when grantees are selected under this
25 section.

26 (e) The grant program under AS 37.17.200 - 37.17.290 is not subject to AS 37.17.090.

27 Sec. 37.17.290. DEFINITIONS. In AS 37.17.200 - 37.17.290,

28 (1) "board" means the board of directors of the Alaska Science and Technology
29 Foundation;

30 (2) "endowment" means the Exxon Valdez oil spill endowment established under
31 AS 37.17.200;


- 1 (3) "foundation" means the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation.
- 2 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

STATE OF ALASKA
House of Representatives
District 27

Representative Cliff Davidson
Chairman
House Resources Committee



Box V, Juneau, AK 99811
(907) 465-2487
Box 746, Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-8250

TO: House Resources Committee members
FROM: Representative Cliff Davidson 
DATE: 31 March, 1992
SUBJECT: House Bill 566 - Exxon Valdez educational endowment

As part of House Bill 411 which appropriates the \$50 million in Exxon Valdez settlement money, \$3 million is currently allocated to the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation for the purpose of educational grants to promote environmental awareness and monitoring and for related marine pollution and coastal habitat education.

House Bill 566 has been broadly supported by education groups, tourism groups and others. In order for the \$3 million endowment included in HB 411 to be implemented, House Bill 566 must pass as well.

The need for the endowment created by HB 566 has become quite evident over the past few weeks. Many individuals have expressed an interest in assisting smaller scale educational programs and citizen-based educational programs over large projects. This is also in keeping with the relatively small sums of money potentially generated by a \$3 million dollar endowment. As such, I have prepared a draft CS for the committee's consideration today that reflects those concepts.



KCHU
Terminal Radio, Inc
PO Box 467 • Valdez, Alaska 99686 • (907) 835-4665 • FAX 835-2847

Representative Cliff Davidson
Capitol Building, Room 108
Juneau, Alaska 99811

March 2, 1992

Dear Representative Davidson,

I would like to offer the thanks of the KCHU, Valdez Board of Directors and membership for your sponsorship of HB 411. KCHU is also very pleased to have the opportunity to provide input to the bill. Most important and pertinent here was the provision for the funding of educational projects. Section 6 of the bill includes funding for "grants for environmental education projects related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill and coastal studies". Public information is the sine qua non of any plan for public involvement in the activities of the Trustees Council for the Exxon Valdez Settlement. An informed public makes good decisions and public radio is an integral part of Alaska's information network.

Since March 1989, the numerous social, environmental and political effects of the spill have consumed a sizeable portion of the time and energy of the Valdez/Cordova, Homer and Kodiak public stations. The story continues to be of primary interest to the residents of affected areas. Through the services of the Alaska Public Radio Network, a steady stream of oil spill news and information has been made available to virtually all interested Alaskans. Some, however, still do not have such access. Last week, I received a request from Gail Evanoff of Chenega Bay Corporation for access to KCHU and public radio.

Unfortunately, due to substantial cuts in State of Alaska funding for public broadcasting, the ability of local stations and of the network to respond to requests for service from isolated communities and to provide essential information has been considerably reduced. The residents of Chenega Bay are the most spill impacted population and get no public radio signal. They have little access to news of the trustees or the activities of the Legislature or the Governor that closely affect their lives. Yet the need for public information and public education remains very high.

Community licenced radio stations in spill-impacted areas have been the primary provider of oil spill information and education, to the very limit of their resources, for almost three years. This coverage has been very costly and early on nearly bankrupted KCHU. The cost to the other stations is a burden that becomes daily more difficult to carry. KCHU, Valdez, KMXT, Kodiak, KDBI, Homer and APRN continue to be the logical vehicle for the collection and dissemination of this information. They are also a legitimate recipient of funding through this legislation.

The activities of the Trustees Council and the proposed public advisory group that will aid the trustees are not big news outside of spill affected areas. This is no longer a glamorous story commanding national and international attention. But to folks like the residents of Chenega Bay and Cordova, of English Bay and Homer, news of the settlement and restoration process is vital. What is decided in this process will, in large measure, determine their quality of life for years to come. The residents of spill affected areas need direct access to the decision making process and public radio, properly funded, can and will provide that access.

Three million dollars has been earmarked in HB 411 for education. Please consider the allocation a portion of those funds, \$500,000, directly to public radio in Valdez, Homer, Kodiak and to the Alaska Public Radio Network, which links the other 25 stations across the state. During the spill, the greatest limitation to news coverage was the lack of a satellite uplink facility in Valdez, making coverage of breaking events difficult and greatly degrading the audio quality of the reports. APRN has been working to acquire a mobile satellite uplink. Federal funds have been secured for the project pending appropriate matching money. We would recommend that \$50,000 be allocated for purchase of the uplink, supporting equipment and installation. The uplink project directly benefit the spill-impacted areas and could be quickly deployed in response to other emergencies, in Prince William Sound, or elsewhere in the state.

The remainder of the allocation, \$450,000, would be conveyed to the three individual stations based on the degree to which their area has been directly affected by the spill, by the clean-up and by ongoing environmental, social and political concerns. These funds would be reserved for news coverage and educational reporting in environmental, natural resource and oil spill interest areas. Structured as endowments, these disbursements and accrued interest would be parcelled out over a period of no less than five years for oil spill, environmental and natural resource reporting. \$250,000 would go to KCHU, Valdez and \$125,000 each to KBBI, Homer and KMXT, Kodiak. A small portion of the KCHU endowment, \$10,000, would be used to install a translator in the village of Chenega Bay.

In summary; the \$500,000 appropriation would be divided between the Alaska Public Radio Network and the three public stations in the spill-affected areas with \$50,000 for APRN, \$200,000 for Valdez and \$125,000 for both Kodiak and Homer. The funds for APRN will be used as matching monies for a federal grant to purchase mobile satellite uplink. The disbursements to the three stations will be in the form of endowments to provided news and educational reporting for oil spill, natural resource and environmental issues.

Representative Davidson, the stations of the Alaska Public Radio Network stepped in to provide superlative coverage of the March 24th, 1989 oil spill. In the months and years since, these same stations have continued to keep the citizens of Alaska informed of the many, many complex issues arising from the spill. But, our ability to effectively cover this ongoing and important story has been greatly diminished. 95% of Alaskans have access to public radio. There is simply no better way to reach all those who need to know. Please help us to continue doing the kind of job that listeners and voters all over the state have come to expect.

Sincerely,



James Winchester
General Manager



BIRD TREATMENT AND LEARNING CENTER

P.O. BOX 230496

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99523

The Bird Treatment and Learning Center would like to be considered for a portion of the funds allocated in HB411, specifically those funds which provide for environmental education projects related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill. We are requesting \$200,000. to match existing funds to secure complete ownership of the property overlooking Potter's Marsh in Anchorage, for the future home of our permanent facility. This site will give us an opportunity to add a broad variety of environmental education topics into our existing educational program that are not currently available through any single source in Alaska. Through joint efforts with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, our facility can be the location for the State Hunter Education and Wildlife Education Programs, which currently have no specific location due to budget cutbacks in their departments. Another exciting development as a result of our close association with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be the extension of the existing boardwalks through Potters Marsh to our facility. This will allow us to provide educational walking tours on the diverse range of animal, plant and bird life represented in this Alaskan habitat to many thousands of residents and visitors. For more extensive programs, our facility will house an auditorium capable of seating approximately 100 people. Exhibit space will include permanent educational exhibits, as well as short term exhibits from other environmental education organizations on current topics of public interest. The facility will also house the medical and rehabilitation wing of the organization. These areas will not be open to public tour however special groups will observe surgeries and special procedures. In addition it will be used to train volunteers on specific procedures and interns will be invited to spend time at Bird TLC as part of their exposure to avian medicine. Additional fundraising efforts are underway from a variety of sources to secure funds to build the facility.

A brief summary of each of our program areas is included for your information. Please contact me at the Bird TLC office (562-1852) or at home (349-3552) if you have any questions relating to this proposal. This is in no way inclusive of all the services we provide to the community or Alaska's resident and migratory bird populations, but rather a small glimpse at the goals of the Bird Treatment and Learning Center. Birds are a valuable barometer of the state of our environment. The legislature by supporting the Bird Treatment and Learning Center will be supporting a better tomorrow for us all.

Thank you,

Linda D. Simmons
Executive Director, Bird TLC

PURPOSE OF BIRD TLC-

The Bird Treatment and Learning Center (Bird TLC), a member-supported, Alaskan non profit organization, was organized by James R. Scott, D.V.M. to provide primary medical care for wild birds and educational opportunities for people. Dr. Scott had been treating Alaska's wild birds for thirty years as an extension of his veterinary practice in Anchorage. It became clear in 1988 that the time was right to formally organize these efforts. Since that time, the organization has grown and expanded its scope. During the Valdez Oil Spill, we treated twenty seven Bald Eagles critically affected by the spill. In June of 1990 we returned nine of these rehabilitated eagles to Cordova's skies. The exposure generated by this involvement accelerated the normal growth of Bird TLC. Today we are treating more birds than ever, educating many more students and other groups with environmental education programs, and are expanding our efforts statewide to communities such as Valdez, Cordova, Nome and Kotzebue.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS-

Alaska is teeming with bird life, including 405 different species of resident and migratory birds. This abundance of bird life also provides us with a wide variety of species to treat. In 1991 we treated 837 birds of 90 different species. Some birds, due to the severity of their injuries, can never be returned to the wild, and are classified as non-releasable. Bird TLC, by federal permit, carefully chooses a variety of educational candidates from among these birds. After a specific training program for both volunteer handler and bird, educational presentations are begun, and the bird becomes a valuable teacher in ways we alone could never accomplish.

All ages, from pre-school to adults have benefitted from our programs. The impact of seeing a wild birds up close, of feeling the air from their wingbeats, for many is powerful inspiration. We are proud beyond measure of the lights we have lit in the eyes and the imaginations of the many children who have shared this experience. By expanding our reach to communities throughout the state we will be able to bring the varied cultures and traditions together in a common understanding of the importance of our environment in our lives today and for the future.

MEDICAL CARE AND REHABILITATION-

Bird TLC is unique in that, unlike many centers which treat only limited or specific species, we treat all wild birds. This broad approach to avian care makes the information gathered at Bird TLC very valuable. Bird TLC's release rate is over 65%. Affording us the best success of all, to share the moment of freedom to soar in Alaska's skies once again. Through a strong communication network, we share this data with centers all over the world. Since the 1989 oil spill we have shared knowledge learned at Bird TLC with Australia, California, New York, Washington and countries in the Middle East. Currently research is being done at Bird TLC to develop new treatment procedures for Avian Pox in bald eagles, a disease rarely seen in the lower 48 but common in Alaska about which very little is known. This information is being shared with educational institutions in the lower forty-eight, in an effort to reduce the eagle deaths due to this painful and debilitating disease. The world of avian medicine is growing at an incredible rate, and we are proud to be at the cutting edge of that growth. Interns working with us in the future, learning new and innovative medical and surgical techniques will help facilitate that growth. We know from history that medical procedures developed for animal medicine offer new insights into human medicine.

IMPACT ON TOURISM-

Visitors to our state have also been able to take advantage of the chance to experience nature in this unique way. Throughout the summer, weekly programs given at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage have become a very popular attraction for visitors. These educational programs not only treat the audiences to a close look at Alaska's avian wonders, but also provides us with a forum to sell the uniqueness of Alaska.. Many visitors who have experienced our programs have become members of our organization and are supportive of our efforts.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT-

Bird TLC has over six hundred members. This program inspires people to give their very best, from the artist, to the architect, from the fisherman to the filmmaker, from the magazine editor to the educator; many have shared their special talents. Monthly membership meetings provide a variety of educational programs to further expand our base of knowledge. The volunteers who support this organization are truly dedicated and remarkable. This organization truly is supported on their backs, and from their pockets. Dr. Scott has said, "We all benefit from helping something from the wild", and we see this benefit every day in the eyes of those who are touched by realizing the quality of our environment tomorrow is in our hands today.

STATEWIDE OUTREACH-

Our impact is not limited to the Anchorage area alone. Birds are now brought to us from many sources throughout the state: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, schools and individuals, among others. One example of this positive trend is a bird brought to us from Russian Mission, Alaska. This Peregrine Falcon, an endangered species, was found by school children that had been studying about birds. Efforts are now being made to take the rehabilitated bird and an environmental education program for the entire school back to Russian Mission. The event will culminate with the release of the Peregrine and a community celebration. These children will feel great pride in saving the life of this endangered bird. The message is clear: watching any bird released to fly free again touches a strong psychological chord in each of us. These are lessons that go beyond schoolbooks and dollars; these are lessons that have lasting, positive effects for us all.

PWS Nature Center

December, 1991

Prince William Sound Community College (PWSCC) and Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA) have granted permission for use of the crooked creek hatchery building. Our contact for the college is Linda Bowman of the business office. Paul McCollum is our VFDA contact.

What is needed:

Find out from VFDA how long we can use facility, in 1990 Jason Wells said at least two years.

What are the codes and regs and does the building meet these, what improvements needed? Can we get a certificate of occupancy from city?

The center needs a core group to take this project on and give direction to the center manager and to solicit support of the idea locally and to have fundraisers.

Some suggestions:

Get letters of support locally from: museum representative, visitor center, school principals, elderhostel coordinator, college president

Avoid overlap with existing exhibits. What are the museum's plans for the future? Do they have any materials to loan from their archives?

If we can't get funding for center, can we plan an exhibit at the museum?

Odds and Ends:

We may need a Fish and Wildlife permit to display animal mounts, there is an application in the Nature Center files.

need a logo designed for brochures, etc..

Outline Staff duties, create a schedule in order to figure out people hours needed per week, create an application for staff and volunteers.

EXHIBIT IDEAS

The hatchery building is divided into two rooms. The larger, back room is 15' X 17', the front room, where the entrance is located is 7 1/2' X 15'. The back room will be the main display area with 3 walls to hang displays on as well as a large center space for a double sided panel display or a terraria or 3-D type of display. The wall adjoining the front and back room is a windowed area which can have a low lying exhibit for children

below it in the back room. The front room will serve as sales area as well as a space for an aquarium. Free literature pertaining to outdoor activities will be available in this room.

Exhibits will cover topics such as local flora and fauna.

Ideas: Wetland ecology, geology, recycling, household wastes, alternative energy sources, pollution, use a variety of media including wall and counter displays, terraria, live tanks and videotape.

*Wetlands residents

*Local birds mounted for display (on loan by Elem school?)

*mural from oil exhibit with facts about pictured flora and fauna

*Marine pollution - trash, oil pollution, Exxon Valdez spill - tracking map with samples and photos of oil and non-oil trash.

*wild flower display - photos and/or pressed flowers with some interesting facts. Vases with current flowers in bloom.

*Glacier display - 3-D model or large photo describing features such as crevasses, moraine, fish tank with glacier ice and hands on samples such as rocks, glacial flour,

*Recycling and household hazardous waste photos or materials which are thrown away and can be recycled or reused. Items made from recycled products such as paper, homemade paper from junk mail, rag rug, containers from common household wastes and a list of alternative items or a wooden wheel fashioned after the ADEC waste wheel.

*Hatchery display - by Valdez Fisheries

*Salmon display- mounted salmon, poster depicting life cycle aquarium with live salmon?? (PWSCC can loan an aquarium. talk to Bob Benda, VFDA mounted salmon?)

*Touch me display - rocks (not too heavy), bones, skulls, horns, urchins, sea stars, for children

*Child size exhibit recreate a seashore setting, graphics, painting, forest, hands on display,

*Alternative energy - hydro and/or solar power set up with explanation

Valdez Fisheries display about the hatchery. Willing to work with us about salmon displays. Cover salmon life cycle, possibly mounted salmon, can give technical advice about aquariums.

The following groups have expressed interest in loaning items for display: PWSCC aquarium, Valdez Fisheries hatchery exhibit, mounted salmon, USFWS travelling display, North Pacific Rim Corporation, Hermon Hutchins Elementary School mounted animals (Brendon Larson). See correspondence file for further information.

FUNDING:

Funds will be generated by grants, visitor donations and merchandise sales. Items such as T shirts, books, buttons, and posters will be sold.

Grants- check files for guidelines. Send for guidelines from foundations listed in the educational section of the grant directory. May want to hire someone to write grants?

Donation sources: Pat Londo for taxidermied animals. Stores for materials that are made from recycled materials or household cleaners like baking soda and vinegar. Sears or other retail store (have contacted local retailers, Rexall was willing to buy and markup 10%) for TV and VCR donation, offer to put a plaque on with their name as donor.

VOLUNTEERS:

PWSCC, High school art students, naturalists, research a plant or animal and write text for a photo or painting.

Senior center- host, maintain flower pots

People to help with painting and maintenance (VFDA has offered supplies and help), make displays and write grants
display ideas

BUDGET

Contact musuem may be able to give us idea of costs for exhibits.
see attached