

HCR

21



Dear Friend of the Environment,

The fate of America's Last Frontier -- the magnificent rough and scenic Alaskan wilderness -- is in the hands of powerful men who are threatening to destroy Alaska's precious wilds.

These men -- Governor Walter Hickel and his lieutenants -- are using their considerable political power to pursue policies that exploit priceless natural resources for short-term profit and irreparably harm the environment.

Hickel's land-use philosophy means huge government subsidies to benefit special interests by opening the Alaskan wilderness to development ... promoting oil drilling in the fragile coastal wetlands ... road building through the untouched wilderness ... overlogging old-growth trees in the national forests, and more.

To stop this reckless ravaging of America's last pristine frontier, the Sierra Club has launched an urgent nationwide campaign, the **CAMPAIGN TO SAVE ALASKA'S WILDS**.

And that's why I'm writing you --- to invite you to join me, and our more than half a million members in an extraordinary and unprecedented effort to stop the assault on Alaska's environment ... and to act quickly while we still have time.

You can help by taking **TWO** very **SIMPLE STEPS** right now:

- **FIRST** ... sign the enclosed Save Alaska's Wilds Statement of Affirmation, to record your name as one of many thousands who care deeply about preserving America's last untouched natural resource -- Alaska's Wilds. Return the statement to me so we can deliver a powerful grassroots message wherever we need to demonstrate that tens of thousands of ordinary Americans care strongly about Alaska's wilderness! And ...
- **SECOND** ... lend the strength of your support to the fight to save Alaska's wilderness by signing up today as a proud member of the Sierra Club. Just take a moment now to complete the membership form and mail it to me with your contribution -- a small investment in America's environmental future and your stake in preserving Alaska's precious wilds.

By becoming a Sierra Club member now -- as we focus our campaign on the Alaskan wilderness -- you'll help us achieve critically important legislative goals. You'll help us stop Governor Hickel and his cronies from carving up Alaska's wild lands for development by greedy special interests.

But time is running out! And we must act now! Even now as I

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SIERRA CLUB LETTER TO MEMBERSHIP

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write you ... the men who hold Alaska's future in their hands are plotting to dismantle the state's environmental protections.

THE PLOT TO CARVE UP ALASKA'S WILDS

The federal public land management statutes provide a loophole which allows existing rights-of-way -- even dusty wagon trails -- to preempt designating public land for wilderness protection. So, favoring development over preservation, Governor Hickel conceives of building 1,400 state roads, crisscrossing through vast expanses of pristine Alaskan interior, intersecting the wilderness to create new avenues of access for logging companies and other development.

Lieutenant Governor Jack Coghill, boasting of his state's plans for wilderness-destroying road-construction, declared:

"When I get done with the map of Alaska, I want it to look like someone threw a plate of spaghetti at it!"

Such reckless talk bespeaks an attitude of irresponsibility by high public officials. A frightening prospect for those of us -- like you and me -- who know that environmental choices are at a crossroads throughout the world today. We're near a point of no return -- and each environmental decision really counts.

SADLY ... the destruction Governor Hickel has set in motion is not temporary -- once the roads they brag about are bulldozed through, the Alaskan wilds will be wilderness no more. These roads will make Alaska's fragile tundra accessible and vulnerable to abuse. It will put prized herds of caribou and moose at risk and subsidize the exploitation of precious natural resources.

And the only way we can stop this exploitation of Alaska's wilds is to focus the glaring light of publicity on the culprits and mobilize all Americans on a national scale. Our campaign to SAVE ALASKA'S WILDS is designed to do just that.

We're appealing to Congress for stronger environmental protection laws. And we're sending a powerful, urgent message to President Clinton -- that he must protect the Alaskan wilderness.

That's why I'm writing you -- to urge you to join us in this effort. Because I know -- together -- we can stop this assault on Alaska's wildlife and wild lands, because we've won this kind of battle many times before.

AFTER ALL ... the Sierra Club -- working to protect the environment for more than 100 years -- is the oldest, largest and most respected environmental advocacy group in the nation today. And growing stronger as more and more caring people join.

Let me tell you how we helped stop Governor Hickel's barbaric plans to slaughter wolves in Alaska. Last year, without regard for scientific or conservation principles, Governor Hickel set in motion a plan to kill off wolves -- firing guns from airplanes and helicopters -- to reduce the population of wolf-predators,

and, in turn, increase the caribou and moose populations for the big-game hunters, and giving Alaska's tourist-centered economy a needed boost. (Tourism -- wolf-kill proponents note -- is the state's third largest industry, lagging behind only oil and commercial fishing in revenue to the state.)

"MACHINE-GUN" KELLYHOUSE IS HIS NAME!

Alaska's top conservation official, David Kellyhouse -- dubbed "Machine-gun" Kellyhouse for his choice of weapon for killing wolves -- revealed the wolf-kill plan was spurred more by his notion of what would bring in tourist dollars than by good game management principles. He boasted that the wolf-kill would "create a wildlife spectacle on a par with the major migrations in East Africa. Mom and Pop from Syracuse can come up here and see something that they can't see anywhere else on Earth!"

The Sierra Club went into high gear swiftly and, with other environmental groups, mobilized grassroots action and spread the word through major newspapers in the "lower 48" that Governor Hickel's "wolf management plan" must be stopped at once.

And, as in the past, we helped produce a massive public outcry in vigorous opposition to "Machine-gun" Kellyhouse's plan to slaughter wolves with weapons from the air.

Acknowledging pressure from the public and groups like the Sierra Club, Governor Hickel retreated when he was deluged with calls and letters from thousands of outraged citizens from all over the nation, announcing the plan was cancelled -- for now.

Without question, our efforts helped produce a major political defeat for Governor Hickel. The Sierra Club -- once again -- proved that when citizens unite and work together for environmental protection -- we make a difference every time!

That's why we're working hard right now at the federal level to extract from Congress the strongest environmental protection measures we can get -- to slow Wally Hickel down and save the Alaskan wilderness for the precious national heritage that it is.

FRAGILE COASTAL AREAS NOW AT RISK

Barely recovering from the Exxon-Valdez oil spill catastrophe, Alaska's coast is extremely vulnerable to environmental damage. And destruction of upland forest habitat by clear-cut logging would deliver a rapid "one-two punch" to many of the same species already hit hard by Exxon Valdez, including wild salmon, bald eagles, harlequin ducks, and marbled murrelets:

Many coastal areas in the oil-spill zone, most threatened by commercial development and logging, include private holdings that lie inside state and national parks and wildlife refuges.

And today, a poor economy is forcing many "private inholders" to log or subdivide their land, leading to a steady proliferation

of vacation cabins, fishing camps, and clear-cut logging in the middle of otherwise protected areas. To address this advancing problem, a plan is gaining momentum to use some of the Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement funds to buy and protect forest land and other wildlife habitat in coastal Alaska -- an excellent chance to turn the tragedy of the oil spill into the permanent preservation of an entire coastal ecosystem.

USING OIL-SPILL DOLLARS TO SAVE ALASKAN WILDS

With urgings from the Sierra Club and others, the need to use Exxon Valdez money for the purchase of these threatened lands was recognized by the state legislature last year in a bill that would have earmarked \$33 million for this purpose.

But Governor Hickel vetoed the bill, opening the door to clear-cut logging scheduled for this spring -- in an area with the most breathtaking scenic views on this planet.

Fortunately the Sierra Club and other conservation groups redoubled our efforts on this issue. Now, public opinion has once again turned the tide. Governor Hickel has again reversed himself and now supports the purchase and protection of private lands within the parks. (Frankly, I can't think of a better example of how we've brought powerful forces successfully to bear to win reversal or to overturn harmful policies.)

THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE ALASKA'S WILDERNESS

The Sierra Club targeted the Alaskan wilderness as the focus of our efforts because there's no place else where the lines of battle are more clearly drawn.

In Alaska, we're up against, not only big oil, mining and timber, but the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and an entire congressional delegation as well.

It won't be an easy battle. We'll have to marshal all our resources to have a chance to succeed. That's why I'm asking you to join us. Because we need your support for victory.

Twelve years of hostility from the White House has nearly left our country in environmental shambles. But now that era has ended, and we look forward to helping President Clinton care for Alaska's wilderness at last.

We worked hard to elect Bill Clinton and Al Gore last year, and we can take credit for the important role we played in their victory. Now with a new administration and an enormous turnover in Congress, we hope for unprecedented opportunities to advance legislation to save the Alaskan wilds.

ALASKAN WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

As a major part of our Campaign to Save Alaska's Wilds, with your support and that of others like you, the Sierra Club is

promoting legislation to protect the Alaskan frontier.

- **National Land Management Policies.** When the Clinton administration reviews federal land management policies, one of the greatest challenges will be to reform policies affecting 130 million acres of National Interest Lands in Alaska -- the national parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, and national forest wilderness areas of Alaska established or enlarged by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. The Sierra Club is ready to help formulate and guide new policy to permanently protect these precious areas.

- **The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Act.** The wildlife-rich coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge remains *de facto* wilderness because Congress took no final action last year on bills which would have opened up this area to oil and gas leasing. In the new Congress we must fight to win permanent protection of this priceless but contested wilderness area.

- **The Exxon Valdez Fund.** A directive to allocate \$50 million of the oil-spill settlement funds to buy and protect land and timber rights failed to clear Congress last year. Now that goal can be achieved by President Clinton, whom we will urge to use the \$50 million to purchase critical wildlife habitat along the damaged Alaska coast -- to protect an entire ecosystem.

- **Alsek-Tatshenshini River Resolutions.** We are pressing the new administration for agreements with Canada to protect the Alsek-Tatshenshini River System in British Columbia and Alaska from damage by a huge copper mine. Acid pollution of the river system from the mine would gravely damage Alaska's scenic Glacier Bay National Park, which lies downstream.

You and I know there's a long reach between an ambitious legislative program and getting it passed through Congress. This year at least we'll be able to expect White House backing for most if not all of our legislative initiatives.

But the same powerful forces will be working hard in opposition -- the well-heeled, well-connected lobbyists -- big oil, big mining, big timber and all the rest of the special interests and the privileged who want to exploit the wilds.

And ... though we've won the White House, we are facing our toughest battles ever. We're in a fierce battle for the "leftovers" -- the last remaining public land left after reckless exploitation of our natural resources by special interests.

That's why we need your help. I'm hoping you'll join more than 575,000 other committed Americans who have chosen to stand up and join this fight.

We need two things from you to help us win:

- (1) Your signature on the enclosed Statement of Affirmation so I can present it to President Bill Clinton with all the

rest, to let him know you expect him to stand up to the special interests who would destroy the Alaskan wilds; and,

(2) Your completed membership reply form, along with your most generous membership contribution to help us win our Campaign to Save Alaska's Wilds.

As a member of the Sierra Club, you'll receive Sierra -- our highly acclaimed magazine devoted to environmental affairs.

You'll also receive membership in your local Sierra Club chapter where, if you choose, you will be able to meet other folks who share your devotion to the outdoors and conservation. You will be invited to join them in activities ranging from pleasure outings to effective, hard-hitting lobbying actions on environmental issues.

AND ... you'll be made automatically eligible for special discounts on a wide variety of publications, including Sierra Club's popular books and calendars with their spectacular, world-famous full-color photographs, as well as the chance to join us on exciting hiking and biking trips, and even world travel.

WHAT'S MORE ... as a way of saying "thank you" for your new membership, we also want to send you -- ABSOLUTELY FREE -- our new Sierra Club canvas bag ... the perfect alternative to paper or plastic bags, and sturdy enough to carry just about anything -- from heavy groceries to a stack of books -- and to go anywhere you need to go, from the office to the beach.

Nothing could honor us more than your decision to become one of us, as a new member of the Sierra Club, in the fight to save the last American frontier. Please take the two simple steps I asked of you -- today -- and help us win this urgent battle, the Campaign to Save Alaska's Wilds.

Sincerely,



Carl Pope,
Executive Director

P.S. Help us stop the destruction of what is still untouched land -- Alaska's wilds. Join the Sierra Club today ... and receive a special Sierra Club canvas grocery bag -- FREE!

National Chairman of the Board
Tony Ruckel

The Anchorage Times

Publisher: BILL J. ALLEN

"Believing in Alaskans, putting Alaska first

Editors: DENNIS FRADLEY, PAUL JENKINS, WILLIAM J. TOBIN

The Anchorage Times Commentary in this segment of the Anchorage Daily News does not represent the views of the Daily News; it is written and published under an agreement with former owners of The Times, in the interest of preserving a diversity of viewpoints in the community.

Bless our little helper

THANK GOODNESS for Carl Pope, a fellow committed to saving Alaska.

If it weren't for him, we Alaskans would have the place paved over in a heartbeat — "with roads crisscrossing through vast expanses of pristine Alaskan interior."

Our precious lands would be trampled and the wilderness — all our hundreds of thousands of square miles of it — would no longer exist, and "the Alaskan wilds will be wilderness no more."

Alaska is "near a point of no return," you see, but Mr. Pope wants "to focus the glaring light of publicity on the culprits" who want to destroy this state. The "culprits," of course, are Alaskans — Alaskans like Gov. Walter J. Hickel and "his lieutenants," who are "using their considerable political power to pursue policies that exploit priceless natural resources for short-term profit and irreparably harm the environment."

Holy smoke.

But fear not. Just send money, and good old Mr. Pope will take care of things. Send enough, and he'll send you a membership card in the Sierra Club and you'll "receive a special Sierra Club canvas grocery bag — FREE!"

WELL, AS YOU might suspect, Carl Pope is the executive director of the Sierra Club — and all of the above quotes are taken from his latest shameful national fund-raising letter.

Crying doom and gloom about Alaska's future continues to be one of the Sierra Club's most effective means of raking in more money from gullible Americans who read this outrageous garbage.

The Sierra Club has no conscience. Exaggeration and hyperbole are simply tools with which to squeeze more dollars from the good-hearted and uninformed.

We have read versions of this same letter, from the same Sierra Club, over and over and over again through the years.

The Sierra Club doesn't care that its protestations and accusations are largely hokey. And recipients of the letter in Kokomo and Bowling Green and Joplin don't know any better.

This letter, like others before it, is filled with baloney and more baloney. This time, the fund-raising effort is different only in that it announces the launching of "an urgent nationwide campaign, the CAMPAIGN TO SAVE ALASKA'S WILDS."

Incredibly, the Sierra Club — which probably should be examined for mail fraud for conducting a solicitation filled with misstatements and misrepresentations — once again casts itself as a sacred savior of the 49th State, to preserve it from those of us who live here.

Please send money, Mr. Pope says. Not to Alaska, of course. He doesn't live here. His address is in San Francisco, that pristine wilderness wonderland in northern California.

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives



Official Business

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-3718

House Majority Leader

HOUSE APPROVES RESOLUTION RESPONDING TO SIERRA CLUB LETTER

4/26/93

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: REP. GAIL PHILLIPS, 465-2689

By a margin of 31-8 the House Saturday approved a resolution (HCR 21) which criticizes a recent six page fundraising letter about Alaska and Alaskans circulated by the Sierra Club.

The letter outlines what Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope claims is a gross misuse of Alaska's public lands. It seeks funds to stop development in Alaska.

Said House Majority Leader Gail Phillips (R) Homer, "Nothing makes my blood boil faster or quicker than these kind of letters from national organizations that think that we in Alaska are too ignorant, too uncaring and too unsophisticated to take care of our own state and our own lands." Phillips is the prime sponsor of the measure. Said Phillips, "The arrogance of these organizations that think we don't love our land and want to take care our resources is beyond my comprehension."

"We need to maintain our independence up here," said Phillips. "We need to maintain our freedom and we need to be the ones in charge of our lands."

Speaking in support of Phillips' measure, Representative Joe Sitton (D) Fairbanks, said of the Sierra Club letter; "We will always collaborate in good faith, but by God when you get the lower 48 cleaned up, where you live, come up here and tell us how to do it... Until then just leave us the hell alone."

The resolution now goes to the Senate.

HOUSE PRESS RELEASES

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House of Representatives

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Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-3718

House Majority Leader

MAJORITY LEADER INTRODUCES RESOLUTION RESPONDING TO SIERRA CLUB LETTER

4/22/93

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: REP. GAIL PHILLIPS, 465-2689

House Majority Leader Gail Phillips (R) Homer late today introduced a resolution sharply critical of a recent fundraising letter concerning Alaska circulated nationwide by the Sierra Club.

In the letter, Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope urges members to "Save Alaska's wilds". He says the fate of our state "is in the hands of powerful men who are threatening to destroy Alaska's precious wilds." The six page letter outlines what Pope says is a gross misuse of Alaska's public lands. The letter solicits funds to stop Governor Hickel and "his cronies from carving up Alaska's wild lands for development by greedy special interests."

Said Representative Phillips, "The piece of propaganda they sent out is so full of untruths and so defamatory we felt it was important for us, as a state legislature, to take a stand against their letter and take the opportunity to explain truthfully what we are doing with our wilderness lands and how we are responsibly developing our state."

"The Sierra Club letter," said Phillips, "portrays Alaskans in a very poor light. It lumps all of us into the category of uncaring, unprincipled, uncivilized human beings who are just here to rape, pillage and plunder our land. It says the Sierra Club, as the great "savior" of America and Alaska, has to come and take care of our lands because we are incapable of doing it ourselves."

Representative Phillips resolution notes that Alaska contains over 70 percent of the nation's federal parklands, and states that pending legislation would appropriate \$22 million to purchase inholdings in Kachemak Bay State Park. The resolution requests the cooperation of the Sierra Club in presenting the truth about our state and asks the club to avoid the use of sensationalism in its literature about Alaska in the future.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: HCR 21

Revision Date: _____
Title: Relating to the correction of
misinformation about Alaska.
Sponsor: Representative Phillips
Requestor: Representative Phillips

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: All
Component: All

COMPONENT SERIAL NO:

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
OPERATING						
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE FUND SOURCE	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Zero fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Pamela A. Stoops, Director
Division: Administrative Services

Pamela A. Stoops

Phone: 465-3850
Date: 4/23/93

Approved By: Warren W. Endicott, Executive Director
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Warren W. Endicott

Date: 4/23/93

Distribution (by preparer): Leg

& Impacted Agency(ies).

FISCAL NOTE: LEG. AFFAIRS
AGENCY