

**HB**

**227**

**SFIN**

**FILE**

# SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 5/16/99

FURTHER: *5/17/99*

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 17 May 1999

Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 227(RES) am

"An Act making up to 160 acres of land available for selection by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough."

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS HB 227 (RES) *am*
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

- Senate Bill:
- same title
  - new title
- House Bill:
- same title
  - technical title
  - new: SCR# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Wall E. Hill</i>	✓				
<i>Linda Green</i>	✓				
<i>Marie O'Leary</i>	✓				
<i>Gonzalo Lopez</i>	✓				
<i>Alan D. Lemmon</i>	✓				
Co-Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓	Co-Chair:			
Co-Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓	Co-Chair:			

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department                      Date              Zero              Fiscal


**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department                      Date              Zero              Fiscal

DNR	7/15/99		11.1

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill





## REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT OGAN

Alaska State Legislature

House District 27 • Palmer • Greater Palmer • Sutton • Chickaloon • Sheep Mountain

### SPONSOR STATEMENT HOUSE BILL 227

#### Hatcher Pass Public Use Area

The need for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Community of Palmer to establish viable industries is great. For the past two decades, many Alaskans residing in Anchorage and other communities have chosen to make the Mat-Su their home. The rustic charm of the Matanuska Valley with its history in agriculture and mining coupled with its unsurpassed natural beauty has attracted many people.

The increase in the populace has created a burden on homeowners as the demand for services such as schools has increased the Mat-Su Borough has had to increase property taxes on homes to accommodate those demands. At this point taxes have reached the point where homeowners may no longer support much of an increase to maintain government services. This is especially true in the Palmer area where little or no industry has been established.

HB 227 will allow the Department of Natural Resources and the Mat-Su Borough to enter into negotiations allowing the Borough to select up to 160 acres of land out of the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area. This bill does not automatically grant the land to the Borough. Any lands selected by the Borough will still have to go through the public hearing process before the State may transfer those lands.

If the Mat-Su Borough is successful in obtaining these lands and the proposed development of a major ski resort moves forward it will establish a much needed industry in an area of the state that is environmentally friendly and economically productive. It will be a big step forward toward establishing a much needed economic base in an area that has struggled for years to bring financial stability to the community.

HB 227 is much needed legislation at this time. It is environmentally friendly, it will help establish a new economic base in a community that needs it, and it will provide a first class destination for winter tourism. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

## **HB 227**

An Act permitting DNR, to put before the public, consideration of transfer of 160 acres of State Land to the Mat-Su Borough.

### **Bill History**

- HB 227 was introduced to allow DNR to keep the commitment they made when the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area was created. (see minutes of 1986 Senate Resources Meeting)
- That commitment was to allow Municipal selection of lands within the Public Use Area.
- HB 227 originally proposed 936 acres for possible selection. House Resources reduced that amount to 160 acres for access purposes only.
- Those include two 100 foot corridors to the ski lift area and the ski village area.
- The Department of Natural Resources indicated no additional hearing costs, but later revised their estimate to include an \$11,000.00 charge for public hearings on the potential conveyance of the access corridors.
- The Mat-Su Borough committed to pay for the hearing costs and with that assurance, and a program receipt based fiscal note, the Finance Committee agreed to waive the from Finance Committee.

### **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO NOTE**

**HB 227 requires the Borough to meet all the stringent conditions now in statute and regulation with regard to the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area. It is also important to note that HB 227 re-affirms that this consideration for conveyance is subject to all existing public hearing and notice provisions presently in state law.**

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House Finance Committee Waiver Request

Bill Number: HB 227

Short Title: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AUTHORITY

I have no objection to the waiver of this bill from a House Finance Committee hearing.

Handwritten signature of Eldon Mulder in cursive.

Rep. Eldon Mulder

Handwritten signature of Con Bunde in cursive.

Rep. Con Bunde

Handwritten signature of Alan Austerman in cursive.

Rep. Alan Austerman

Handwritten signature of John Davies in cursive.

Rep. John Davies

Handwritten signature of Gary Davis in cursive.

Rep. Gary Davis

Handwritten signature of Richard Foster in cursive.

Rep. Richard Foster

Handwritten signature of Ben Grussendorf in cursive.

Rep. Ben Grussendorf

Handwritten signature of Vic Kohring in cursive.

Rep. Vic Kohring

Handwritten signature of Carl Moses in cursive.

Rep. Carl Moses

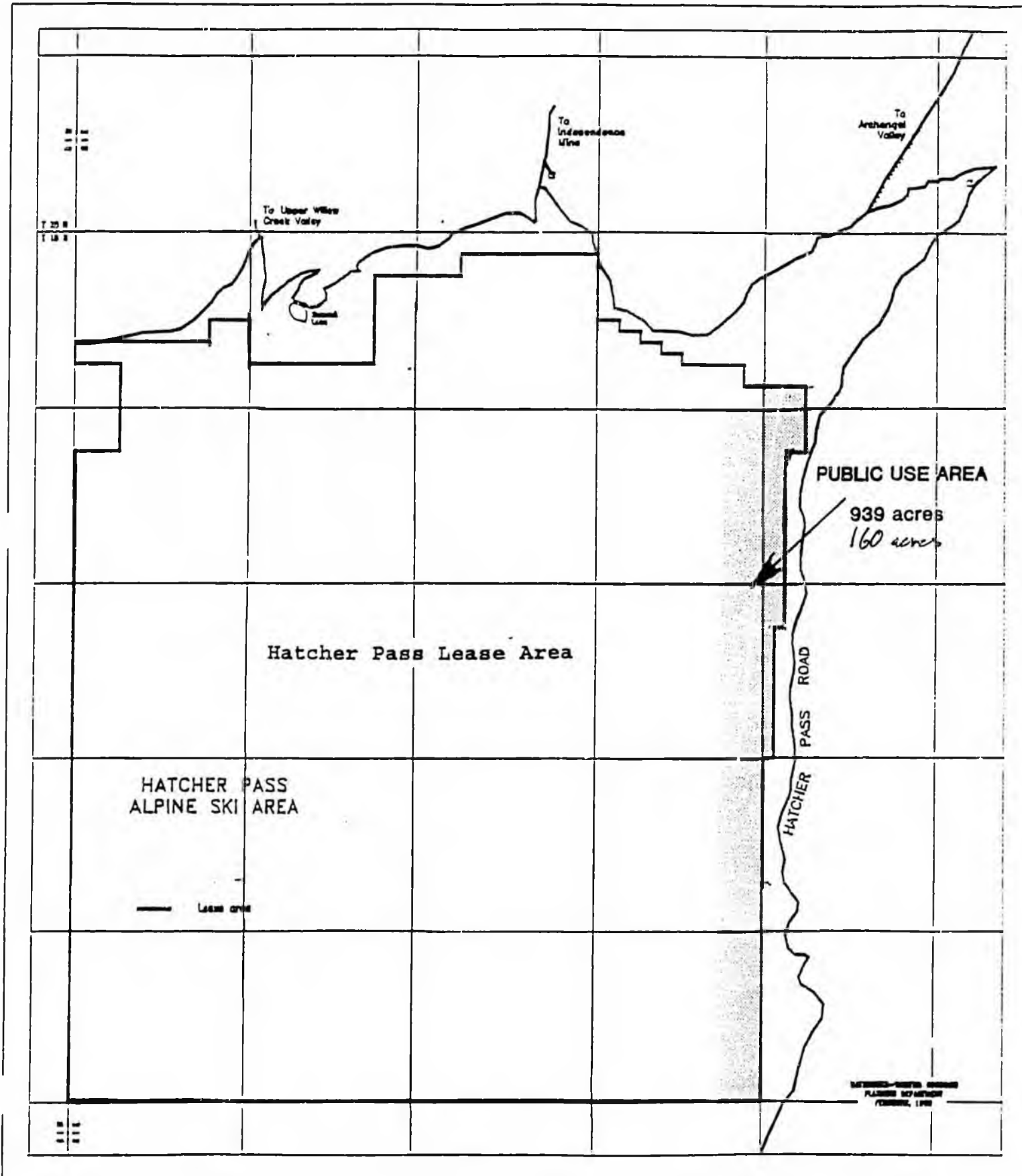
Handwritten signature of Williams in cursive.

Rep. Williams

Fiscal Notes: DNR (11.1 - Stat. Des. Prog. Rec.)

Recommendations from previous committee(s): SCHED RES 5/15/99

Portion of Hatcher Pass Public Use Area within Lease



They all feel that the proposed bill represents the "highest and best use for this property."

Senator Paul Fischer noted a discrepancy between the resolution from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough which supports the bill and recommends multiple use including mining, timber and agriculture, and bill language which excludes mining. Mr. Farquhar explained that the bill would close the land to future mineral entry.

Valid claims in the area are protected. Individuals would continue to be able to operate mining claims which legally exist at the present time. Senator Kerttula further noted that the resolution, when adopted, was based on the initial proposal to set aside 200,000 acres.

Senator Halford asked if the Matanuska-Susitna Borough could select the subject land under its municipal entitlement. Mr. Farquhar advised, "I don't see why they couldn't, . . . I think it would be available for municipal selection."



Co-chairman Faiks suggested that the bill be HELD in committee for a day.

Committee: SFIN  
Date: 86/04/30  
Time: 0845



SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 30, 1986

8:45 a.m.

SFC-86, #48, Side 1 (350-end)  
SFC-86, #48, Side 2 (000-end)  
SFC-86, #49, Side 1 (000-391)

CALL TO ORDER

Co-chairman Jan Faiks convened the meeting at approximately 8:45 a.m.

PRESENT

In addition to Co-chairman Faiks, Senators Eliason, Ferguson, Halford, and Kerttula were present. Co-chairman Sackett and Senator Paul Fischer arrived at the meeting approximately five minutes after it began.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Burke, representing Gross & Burke;

Scott Burgess, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League; John George, Director, Division of Insurance, Dept. of Commerce & Economic Development; Jeffrey W. Bush, Assistant Attorney General, Dept. of Law; Former Attorney General, Normal Gorsuch;

Dick Block, President, Alaska National Insurance Company; Ned Farquhar, Special Assistant/Legislative Liaison, Dept. of Natural Resources; Mike Vediner, Natural Resource Manager II, Division of Land and Water Management, Dept. of Natural Resources; Art Snowden, Administrative Director, Alaska Court System; Kurt Dzinich, Senior Advisor, Senate Advisory Council; aides to committee members and other members of the legislature; and representatives from the press.



SUMMARY INFORMATION

SB 334 - Act relating to the Hatcher Pass Public Use



Area

Testimony heard from Senator Kerttula and Mr. Farquhar, Dept. of Natural Resources. Bill was held in committee for subsequent discussion.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIGN - IN

HB 227-HATCHER PASS PUBLIC USE AREA

NAME: Rep. Scott Owen Sub./Bill No: \_\_\_\_\_

Co./Dept./Title: Rep Phone: 3678

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to testify?  Yes  No  Respond to Questions

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Sub./Bill No: \_\_\_\_\_

Co./Dept./Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to testify?  Yes  No  Respond to Questions

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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