

SJR

15

<TARGET><BILL>SJR 15</BILL><SUBJECT>SJR
15</SUBJECT><COMM>SRES28</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/22/14

FURTHER: RULES

Date of 5-Day Notice: _____
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 2/10/14

Resources Committee considered SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

SJR 15-OPPOSE INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATING OF LAND

Opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation without approval by the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature; requesting the United States Department of State and the United States Department of the Interior to cease all further action related to an international designation for land and water in the state until the action is approved by the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature; requesting that the United States Congress pass legislation requiring Congressional approval of any international designation that affects the use of land or water by the state or the United States; requesting that the governor be involved in the process and development of any joint action plan; requesting that the state, including the departments responsible for the management of fish and wildlife and other natural resources, be an integral part of any discussion, agreement, understanding, or other process that affects the use or development of fish and wildlife and other natural resources in the state; and urging the governor and the attorney general to reserve all legal remedies for a taking of the natural resources of the state by an international designation of land and water in the state.

and recommends:

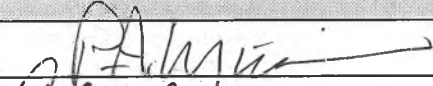
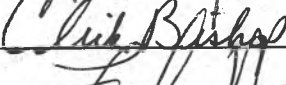
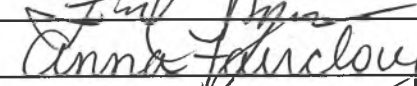
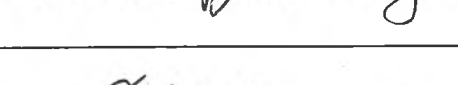
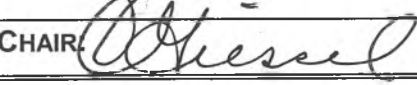
- be replaced with CS _____ (_____) Same Title New Title
- adopt previous CS _____ (_____) Same Title New Title
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
S.RES			✓	1

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	MICHELLE	✓			
	BISHOP	✓			
	DYSAN	✓			
	FAIRCLOUGH	✓			
CHAIR: 	GIESEL	✓			

State of Alaska

Provided by the Department of Natural Resources

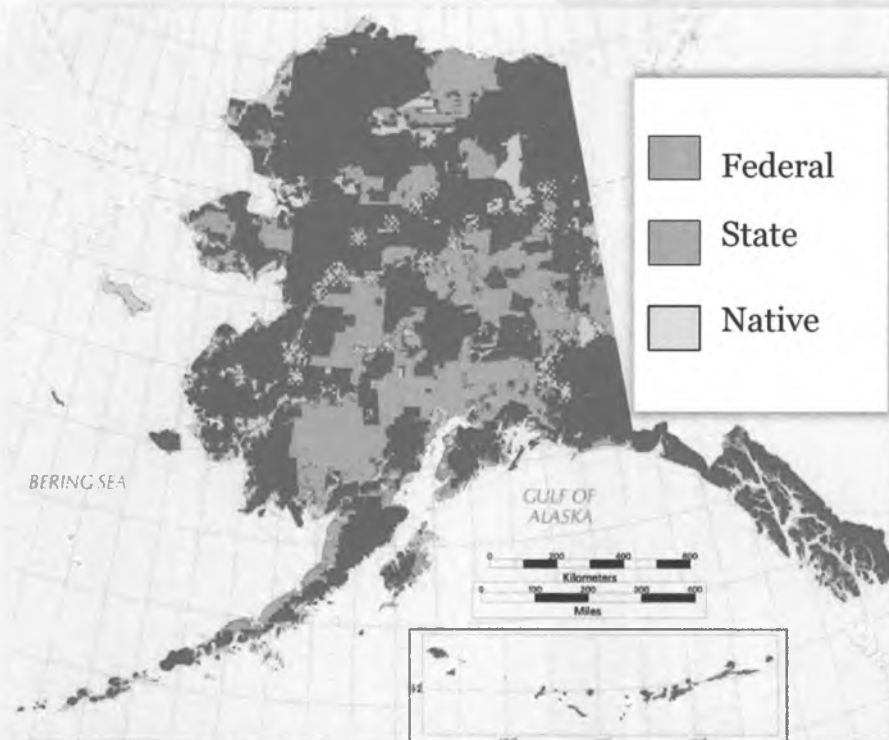


Land Ownership

- *Total Land in Alaska:* Approx. 365.5 million
- *Federal Land:* More than 200 million acres
- *State Land:* Approx. 100 million acres of uplands, 60 million acres of tidelands, shore lands, and submerged lands, and 40,000 miles of coastline
- *Native Corporation Land:* 44 million acres

Percent Ownership¹:

- *Federal:* 60.7%
- *State:* 27.5%
- *ANCSA:* 11.6%
- *Private (includes municipal and borough):* 0.2%



¹ Percent Ownership estimates do not include tidelands, shore lands, and submerged lands

LIST OF U.S. BIOSPHERE RESERVES BY CATEGORY

Protected Natural Area. Protected area managed for conservation and designated wholly or primarily as a core area.

Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, AK (1976: FWS)

Big Thicket National Preserve, TX (1981: NPS)

Denali National Park and Preserve, AK (1976: NPS)

Everglades/Dry Tortugas National Parks, FL (1976: NPS)

Guanica State Forest, PR (1981: state)

Isle Royale National Park, MI (1980: NPS)

Noatak National Preserve/Gates of the Arctic National Park, AK (1976, 1984: NPS)

Olympic National Park, WA (1976: NPS)

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, AZ (1976: NPS)

Virgin Islands National Park, USVI (1976: NPS)

Yellowstone National Park, MT-WY (1976: NPS)

Research Reserve. Protected areas managed primarily for research to understand ecosystem processes or support development of sustainable ecosystem uses.

Beaver Creek Experimental Forest, AZ (1979: FS)

Central Plains Experimental Range, CO (1976: ARS) LTER site

Desert Experimental Range, UT (1976: FS)

H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, OR (1976: FS) LTER site

Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, NH (1976: FS) LTER site

Konza Prairie Research Natural Area, KS (1979: TNC, university) LTER site.

Luquillo Experimental Forest, PR (1976: FS) LTER site

San Dimas Experimental Forest, CA (1976: FS)

San Joaquin Experimental Range, CA (1976: ARS)

University of Michigan Biological Station, MI (1979: university)

Biosphere Reserve Cluster. An association of separately designated administrative units that cooperate in implementing biosphere reserve roles. (Clusters of Protected Natural Areas and Research Reserves provided the basis for many initial U.S. Biosphere Reserve nominations in 1976)

Big Bend National Park, TX (1976: NPS) and Jornada Experimental Range, NM (1976: ARS) LTER site. Also includes Mapimi Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.

Fraser Experimental Forest, CO (1976: FS), Niwot Ridge, CO (1979: FS, university) LTER site, and Rocky Mountain National Park, CO (1976: NPS)

Glacier National Park, MT (1976: NPS) and Coram Experimental Forest, MT (1976: FS). Also includes Waterton National Park in Alberta, Canada (1979: Parks Canada)

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, CA (1976: NPS) and Stanislaus-Tuolumne Experimental Forest, CA (1976: FS)

Correction

Three Sisters Wilderness, OR (1976: FS) and H.J. Andrews, OR (1976: FS)

Olympic National Park, OR (1976: NPS) and Cascade Head Experimental Forest and Scenic-Research Area, OR (1976: FS)

Multisite Biosphere Reserve. A group of two or more administrative units designated together as a single biosphere reserve. Designated primarily between 1980 and 1986.

California Coast Ranges Biosphere Reserve, CA 10 units in 2 clusters (1983: BLM, FS, NPS, state, TNC, university)

Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve, NC-SC-GA 13 units in 3 clusters (1986: FWS, NOAA, NPS, TNC, states, private, university) includes North Inlet LTER site

Central Gulf Coastal Plain Biosphere Reserve, FL 1 unit, other units not yet designated (1983: state)

Channel Islands Biosphere Reserve, CA 2 units (1976 and 1986: NPS, NOAA)

Glacier Bay-Admiralty Island Biosphere Reserve, AK 2 units (1986: FS, NPS)

Hawaiian Islands Biosphere Reserve, HI 2 units (1980: NPS)

Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Reserve, CA-NV 5 units (1984: BLM, FS, NPS, state, university)

South Atlantic Coastal Plain Biosphere Reserve, SC 1 unit, other units not yet designated (1983: NPS)

Regional Biosphere Reserve. A large multiple use area or an association of administrative units designated together as a single biosphere reserve. The designated area(s) participate in an organized, cooperative program involving multiple agencies and nongovernmental entities. Designated primarily since 1988.

Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve, CA 13 units (1988 and 1991: FWS, NPS, NOAA, state, local, private)

Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Reserve, NY-VT (1988: FS, local, private, state, complex ownerships)

Land Between the Lakes Area Biosphere Reserve, TN-KY multiple use area (1991: TVA)

Mammoth Cave Area Biosphere Reserve, KY regional development district and a national park (1990: NPS, regional development authority)

New Jersey Pinelands Biosphere Reserve, NJ regional multiple use reserve (1983, 1988: FWS, local, state, complex ownerships)

Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve, GA-NC-SC-TN-VA 5 units (1976, 1988, 1993: DOE, FS, NPS, state, private) includes Coweeta LTER site

Virginia Coast Reserve, VA multiple islands TNC bioreserve (1979: TNC) LTER site

Taken from:

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE U.S. BIOSPHERE RESERVE
BIOSPHERE RESERVE DIRECTORATE
U.S. MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE PROGRAM 1994

US/ Russia Formally State Intent on Beringia



Saturday September 8th, 2012—A new directive was accorded The National Park Service’s Shared Beringian Heritage Program following the meeting in Vladivostok between US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. For the first time in 20 years, the United States and Russia formally stated their intention to ‘bridge’ the Bering Strait in a symbolic linkage of parklands and indicated that the objective is to have a formal arrangement in place by the New Year. Several official statements were released concerning the establishment of a

“Transboundary Area of Shared Beringian Heritage” connecting parks in Alaska and in Chukotka, Russia. In accordance with these statements and recognizing the goals set by Clinton and Lavrov, the Beringia Program will continue to pursue deeper and more meaningful collaborations with Russian partners. Further, the two leaders advised continuing consultations, discussions, and engagement with local residents and indigenous people in the region on the issue of a Transboundary Area. The Beringia Program will continue efforts toward community engagement and knowledge exchange while gathering feedback and listening to the opinions of Beringia residents. While the announcement continues to be progress toward the realization of an international protected area, the work has just begun. Please see the official State Department releases on Beringia for more information.

1. **On Cooperation in the Bering Strait Region**
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/09/197522.htm>
2. **U.S.-Russia Cooperation on Antarctica, Interregional Areas, and Beringia**
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/09/197523.htm>
3. **Signing Ceremony With Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov**
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/09/197518.htm>
4. **Video of Clinton/Lavrov Remarks**
<http://www.apec2012.ru/mm/20120908/462954633.html>
5. **Historic Visa Agreement Between US & Russia**
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/09/197476.htm>

STATE CAPITOL
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
907-465-3500
fax: 907-465-3532



550 West 7th Avenue #1700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-269-7450
fax 907-269-7463
www.Gov.Alaska.Gov
Governor@Alaska.Gov

Governor Sean Parnell
STATE OF ALASKA

September 7, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

I was deeply concerned to learn that the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. National Park Service were in the final stages of formalizing a transboundary protected area in the region of the Bering Strait via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Russian Federation.

Until last week, my Administration has received little information on these efforts since the spring of 2011, when the U.S. and Russia issued a joint statement on cooperation in the region. Since action on the proposed MOU has been temporarily deferred until certain remaining issues are resolved between the U.S. and Russia, I respectfully request that U.S. federal agencies delay further action on a formal designation until we have had a meaningful opportunity to review the MOU and share input.

While I agree that promoting a better understanding of our shared history with the Russian Federation and sustaining the cultural vitality of the indigenous people of the region are important priorities, I remain concerned that designation of a new international protected area might limit economic opportunity for rural Alaskans in the region. For example, such a designation could complicate future easement negotiations for the Red Dog Mine road, which runs through Cape Krusenstern National Monument.

While I am aware the National Park Service solicited input from local stakeholders in 2010 and 2011 regarding establishment of the international protected area, I understand that affected Alaskan communities continue to have concerns.

I hope the State of Alaska will have the opportunity for meaningful consultation with federal agencies before further action is taken to establish an international protected area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell
Governor

cc: Jonathan Jarvis, Director, United States National Parks Service
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Kip Knudson, Director of State and Federal Relations, Office of the Governor

Draft of October 28, 2013

MEMORANDUM
of Understanding
between the Government of the United States of America
and the Government of the Russian Federation
Symbolically Linking National Parks in
the Bering Strait Region

The Government of the United States of America and the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the Governments,

calling for protection of the shared natural and longstanding cultural heritage of Chukotka and Alaska;

recognizing the worldwide cultural and natural significance of the Bering Strait region, both as an ancient crossroads and as an area of present-day cooperation between our two countries;

noting that the Bering Strait region is important to the economies of our two countries;

recognizing the success of joint cooperation under the National Park Service's "Shared Beringian Heritage Program" in preserving and strengthening the shared heritage and cultural vitality of the indigenous and other local inhabitants in the Bering Strait region;

confirming the mutual interest of our two countries in deepening cooperation and strengthening ties, particularly in the area of the U.S.-Russian boundary in the Bering Strait region;

noting the important need to protect the rights of indigenous and other local inhabitants in Chukotka and Alaska and to ensure their access to natural resources in accordance with each country's laws;

highlighting the importance of bilateral cooperation in protecting the environment and natural resources and preserving cultural heritage in the Bering Strait region;

understanding the significance of unique Arctic ecosystems of Chukotka and Alaska in the Bering Strait region;

conscious of the effects of human activities, climate change, and other environmental factors on the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Bering Strait region,

affirm that the linking of national parks in the Bering Strait region on both sides of the border between United States and Russia is intended to promote conservation of flora, fauna, and natural ecosystems; preservation of kinship ties, cultural practices, and languages of indigenous peoples of Chukotka and Alaska; and collaboration on environmental protection in the Bering Strait region and environmental research and monitoring, and also symbolize the link of two continents, our Governments, and people.

The Governments have reached the following understandings:

1. The Governments designate the following Participants for the implementation of cooperation under this Memorandum:

for the United States of America - the National Park Service of the U.S.
Department of the Interior.

for the Russian Federation - the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
of the Russian Federation;

2. The geographic scope of cooperation under this Memorandum is defined as the Bering Strait region, including the transboundary area comprising the Beringia National Park, which is located in the Russian Federation, and the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and Cape Krusenstern National Monument, which are located in the United States of America. The Participants acknowledge that they have exchanged information concerning the boundaries of these national parks, including their cartographic coordinates. Either Government may change the aforementioned boundaries of the

national parks in its territory in accordance with its country's laws. In the event either Government changes the aforementioned boundaries, a written notification should be sent to the other Government.

3. The linking of national parks in the Bering Strait region under this Memorandum is intended to:

exemplify constructive cooperation between the Participants at the national level;
provide an opportunity for social and economic benefit for both countries by promoting ecological tourism, recreation, and sustainable development, as well as environmental awareness and education;

foster mutual understanding and cooperation respecting environmental protection and the preservation of cultural heritage and in public education;

advance the unique, traditional way of life of indigenous peoples of the Bering Strait region;

respect subsistence rights of indigenous and other local inhabitants, in accordance with each country's laws;

promote the study and enjoyment of natural resources, as well as the study and understanding of cultural heritage of international significance in the region;

support cultural, scientific, and educational exchanges and exchanges of experts and specialists; and

provide a framework for the people of Russia and the United States to participate in the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage and to work jointly to protect the fragile Arctic ecosystems in the Bering Strait region.

4. The Participants intend to develop a joint action plan that describes the specific work to be accomplished under this Memorandum and that identifies specific projects and types of activities, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the both countries' Participants and organizations in implementing them. The Participants intend to annually review and update the plan as needed.

5. Each Participant confirms that it intends to designate a Coordinator responsible for developing and coordinating implementation of the joint action plan. Each Participant may designate a different Coordinator at any time by notifying the other Participant in writing. The Coordinators should interact directly with one another and

may also facilitate direct contacts among the Participants, institutions, and other organizations of both countries to achieve the goals of this Memorandum.

6. Cooperative activities that may occur under this Memorandum include exchanges of information and technical expertise concerning natural and cultural resource management and use, including study tours, internships, training courses, workshops, symposia, joint research projects, and other forms of joint activities, including activities related to cultural traditions, subsistence, kinship, and languages of indigenous peoples, as mutually decided by the Participants and reflected in the joint action plan. Where appropriate either Participant may seek the assistance of other agencies or organizations in performing requested actions in support of the implementation of this Memorandum.

7. Cooperation under this Memorandum is subject to the availability of personnel, funds, and other material resources of each Participant. Additionally, each Participant intends to approve and conduct activities under this Memorandum in accordance with its country's laws. Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to affect other existing or future arrangements between the Governments or between one of the Governments and a third party.

8. This legally nonbinding Memorandum is not an international agreement and does not create any rights or obligations under international law.

9. Cooperation under this Memorandum commences upon signature. Either Government may discontinue cooperation under this Memorandum for any reason, in which event the Government discontinuing cooperation should take all possible measures to provide the other Government written notification at least 90 (ninety) days in advance.

10. Nothing in this Memorandum abrogates or in any way infringes upon the sovereign rights and authorities of each of the Governments and their Participants to manage lands within its respective borders in accordance with its country's laws, or upon the rights of third parties. The Participants intend to resolve any differences in interpretation or application with respect to this Memorandum through consultations between them.

Signed at _____ on _____ 20____, in two originals, in duplicate in
the Russian and English languages.

For the Government of the
Russian Federation

For the Government of the
United States of America

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 28, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W. – M.S. 7229
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W. – Room 7226
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretaries:

We write to express our continued concern over the looming possibility of an international transboundary park arrangement between the National Park Service (NPS) and Russia that would span the Bering Straits region. Our understanding is that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been agreed to by the Department of State and Russia, and that a delay in translating it for both sides is the reason it has not been released. While your Departments appear to have decided this arrangement is in the best interest of our nation, Alaskans remain unconvinced that it will benefit those who actually live in the region. To the contrary, the most direct impact is likely to be another layer of federal bureaucracy that serves only to restrict Alaskans' rightful access to – and lawful activities on – these public lands.

Our staffs met with representatives for the Shared Beringian Heritage Program last November and listed our concerns over this concept at that time. Alaska Governor Sean Parnell similarly outlined his reservations in a letter to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in September 2012. Yet, nothing has changed. The proposed “sister park” arrangement, with its cross-border collaboration and cooperation defined by the MOU, continues to present several potential problems for Alaskans. Local communities still stand to receive no direct benefit to our knowledge. Subsistence activities and access are still not adequately protected. New limitations are still likely to deprive rather than foster economic opportunities, particularly with regard to resource development. In our view, international influence has been excessive, while local, State and Native participation has been insufficient.

To our knowledge, none of these concerns have been addressed, and it is difficult to fathom how additional bureaucracy will do anything but further slow and complicate decisions by federal agencies in the Bering Sea region. Accordingly, as Alaskans continue to communicate to us their valid apprehension over the negative impacts an international arrangement could have, we have decided to elevate this issue and formally request that you fully account for local and statewide concerns.

While we support the general concept of fostering a strong, international relationship between Alaska and Russia across the Bering Straits, we hereby request that you consider the views of Alaskans prior to any final decisions on this issue. Specifically, we ask that you engage directly with the Alaskans this arrangement will directly affect, that you schedule public

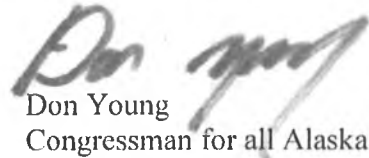
meetings in our state to familiarize yourselves with local concerns, that you engage on this matter with the State of Alaska, and that you convene government-to-government consultations with the Alaska Native Tribes who are likely to be impacted.

Our offices are ready to help in any way we can. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Don Young
Congressman for all Alaska

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ROBERT DILLON (202) 224-6977

OCTOBER 30, 2013
5765

MATT SHUCKEROW (202) 225-
5765

Murkowski, Young Express Concern Over Bering Strait Park Proposal with Russia

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Don Young (both R-Alaska) this week voiced concerns about the ongoing effort to create an international park in the Bering Strait region with Russia. Murkowski and Young outlined their concerns in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary of State John Kerry.

The proposed park – referred to as Transboundary Area of Shared Beringian Heritage – would link the proposed Beringia National Park in the Russian Far East, with the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and Cape Krusenstern National Monument on Alaska’s Seward Peninsula.

In their letter, Murkowski and Young said there has been a woeful lack of transparency and communication with Alaska officials regarding the creation of such a park.

“While your departments appear to have decided this arrangement is in the best interest of our nation, Alaskans remain unconvinced that it will benefit those who actually live in the region. To the contrary, the most direct impact is likely to be another layer of federal bureaucracy that serves only to restrict Alaskans’ rightful access to – and lawful activities on – these public lands,” Murkowski and Young wrote.

The National Park Service (NPS) and State Department are currently working with their Russian counterparts to finalize a memorandum of understanding establishing cross-border collaboration and cooperation. The NPS released a draft of that agreement Monday. Murkowski and Young criticized the administration for moving forward without first consulting Alaskans.

“In our view,” Murkowski and Young wrote, “international influence has been excessive, while local, state and Native participation has been insufficient.”

Among the issues Alaskans have with the park proposal is the lack of any direct benefit to the Alaska Native communities in the region, inadequate protection of subsistence activities, and possible restrictions on mineral and other economic development.

“While we support the general concept of fostering a strong, international relationship between Alaska and Russia across the Bering Strait, we hereby request that you consider the views of Alaskans prior to any final decisions on this issue,” Murkowski and Young wrote.

A Major Promise of ANILCA - Valid Existing Rights

QUESTION: How could Congress been clearer?

A Major Promise of ANILCA - No More

Section 101 This act provides sufficient protection for the national interest in the scenic, natural...**thus Congress believes that the need for future legislation designating new conservation system units, new national conservation areas or new national recreation areas has been obviated thereby.** (emphasis added)

Section 1326(a) No future executive branch actions...

Section 1326(b) No further studies of federal lands in the State of Alaska for the single purpose of considering the establishment of conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation area or for related or similar purposes shall be conducted unless authorized by Congress.

QUESTION: How could Congress have been clearer?

Jewell on monuments: 'If Congress doesn't act, we will'

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, October 31, 2013

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today said President Obama will take executive action to protect the nation's treasured lands if Congress fails to act.

It was the strongest statement yet in Jewell's six-month tenure that the Interior Department will pursue permanent steps to protect some public lands from future oil and gas drilling and mining.

It came during Jewell's wide-ranging speech to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., which outlined her conservation priorities for the president's second term.

They include lobbying Congress for a "rational" budget allowing for key conservation investments; partnering with the private sector to hire and engage more youth in the outdoors; and balancing energy development on public lands with effective, business-friendly mitigation.

Jewell highlighted the need to take proactive steps to conserve public lands for future generations, peppering her speech with quotes from noted conservationists Aldo Leopold and Teddy Roosevelt.

"Conservation is 'not just about doing nothing, it's about doing something affirmative to make sure that we are passing on this incredible blessing that we have,'" Jewell said, quoting Leopold.

Jewell said she will be meeting with communities in the coming months to identify public lands deserving of protection as national monuments under the Antiquities Act.

She chastised Congress for going three years without protecting a single new acre of land as a national park or wilderness.

"If Congress doesn't step up to act to protect some of these important places that have been identified by communities and people throughout the country, then the president will take action," Jewell said, suggesting that Congress pass another omnibus lands bill. "There's no question that if Congress doesn't act, we will."

Jewell echoed Obama's State of the Union address this year, in which he pledged that, without congressional action, U.S. EPA would take administrative steps to curb domestic carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, which the agency has begun to do.

Obama has designated nine national monuments so far, including the 243,000-acre Rio Grande del Norte monument in New Mexico. Presidents historically designate most of their monuments in their second terms.

"She rightfully pressured Congress to get moving on conservation," said Brian O'Donnell, executive director of the Conservation Lands Foundation. "But more importantly, she demonstrated that she will listen to communities that want their public lands safeguarded."

Jewell said that although it's unlikely she will get 100 percent buy-in on any national monument designations, the agency will not pursue protections in places where there is significant conflict. She did not identify any sites that are under consideration.

Jewell also blasted the Republican House for proposing to cut funding to national parks by 13 percent and to the Fish and Wildlife Service by nearly a third.

She took a veiled swipe at Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.), who this week released a report calling for a halt in land acquisitions until the Park Service tackles its maintenance backlog. Jewell said those who criticize land acquisitions are often the same lawmakers who have gutted the agency's budget, worsening the backlog.

She urged Congress to pass Obama's budget, which calls for full mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund by 2015 -- a tough sell in a fiscally strapped Congress.

"The real test of whether you support conservation is not what you say in a press conference when the cameras are rolling, but whether you fight for it in the budget conference," Jewell said.

She also spoke of the challenges of identifying the right lands for oil and gas production, which has remained relatively stagnant on public lands even as it soars on private lands in states including North Dakota and Texas.

The challenge is acute in places like the Arctic, she said, where Alaska Natives have implored her to expand oil drilling while protecting the caribou they depend on for food.

But she said places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should remain off-limits to drilling.

"It is an extraordinary place," said Jewell, who spent a night in the 19-million-acre refuge last month and said she saw 29 polar bears. "You never look at nature in quite the same way until you've been there."

Jewell today signed a secretarial order -- her first as secretary -- ordering an agencywide, comprehensive mitigation plan to ensure industrial projects are efficiently permitted on public lands but also offset by strategic conservation (*Greenwire*, Oct. 31).

Jewell also spoke at length about the impacts of the 16-day government shutdown, including the angst it caused her employees who had to bar citizens from their public lands.

While the closure of national parks and monuments sparked outrage across the country and triggered oversight hearings on Capitol Hill, Jewell said there was "absolutely no political motivation" associated with the closures.

"The barricades were there to protect the resources," she said in reference to decisions to close sites including the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. "The monuments don't take care of themselves."

The shutdown offered a silver lining by highlighting to the American people the spiritual and economic value of national parks, Jewell argued.

"To quote a well-known line from a Joni Mitchell song, 'You don't know what you've got till it's gone,'" she said.

Several conservation groups hailed the speech.

"We agree with Secretary Jewell that we can't wait to protect new places as national monuments so more communities can capture the economic benefits that go hand-in-hand with having a landmark landscape in their backyard," said a statement by League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski.

Ellis Richard, founder of the group Park Rangers for Our Lands, called the 40-minute speech Jewell's "strongest statement to date supporting conservation values of the public lands her department manages."

Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall, a former George W. Bush administration wildlife official, praised Jewell for spotlighting the economic value of public lands, noting that sportsmen and women spent more than \$144 billion on wildlife-related activities in 2011 -- spending that largely depends on land access.

Jamie Williams, president of the Wilderness Society, said Jewell's pledge to promote mitigation in conjunction with energy development is a "wise step."

"We applaud Secretary Jewell for finding ways to connect a diverse country to its great outdoors, and we support the Obama administration in taking bold actions to ensure these special places will be protected for future generations of Americans," he said.

SENATOR
CHARLIE HUGGINS
SENATE PRESIDENT

SENATOR
LESIL MCGUIRE
RULES CHAIR

SENATOR
KEVIN MEYER
SENATE FINANCE CO-CHAIR

Alaska State Legislature



Senate Leadership

SENATOR
JOHN COGHILL
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

SENATOR
PETE KELLY
SENATE FINANCE CO-CHAIR

November 14, 2013

The Honorable Secretary Sally Jewell
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W. – M.S. 7229
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Secretary John Kerry
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W. – Room 7226
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: Draft Beringia Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the governments of the United States and Russia

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Kerry:

Alaska Senate Leadership has analyzed the October 28, 2013 Draft Beringia *Memorandum of Understanding* (“MOU”) from the United States Department of State. See attached.

The draft MOU arrives, almost concurrently, with the news that President Obama, via executive order, created a task force of officials to respond to the impacts of climate change.¹

The MOU, specifically, is concerning for a number of reasons:

1. As written, the MOU may impede future natural resource development.
 - a. In 1957, a House of Representatives Report (No. 624) accompanied H.R. 7999 (which provided for the admission of Alaska into the Union). On page 7 of the report, it stated:

As previously noted, tremendous acreages of land in Alaska have been tied upon in the status of Federal reservations and

¹ See Exec. Order No. 13653, 78 C.F.R. 66817 (2013). The task force would be largely immune from legislative oversight. Many are concerned the task force would be used to force a federal agenda on certain states, without proper input from the residents affected.

withdrawals for various purposes. The committee feels strongly that this practice has been carried to extreme lengths in Alaska, to a point which has hampered the development of such resources for the benefit of mankind. As a result, a long list of potential basic industries in [Alaska], including...oil and gas, coal, various other minerals...can exist in Alaska only as tenants of the Federal Government, and on the sufferance of the various Federal agencies. The committee considers that to be an unhealthy situation.²

- b. The intent, when Alaska became a state, was that it was to use its natural resources to become self-sufficient and less reliant on the federal government.
 - i. Many are concerned that the Department of Interior and Department of State, have, without proper extended input (beyond the 2010, 2011 National Park Service ("NPS") solicitations) negotiated an "international park" (linking the Bering Strait Region), which may have a tremendous negative economic effect on Alaska.
 - ii. Here is one example: Red Dog mine has been operating since 1989 in Northwest Alaska near Kotzebue. It is one of the world's largest producers of zinc concentrate. The mine is operated by NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. ("NANA"), a Native corporation owned by the Inupiat people, and Teck Alaska Incorporated. The MOU references that the National Governments, through their respective Park Services will cooperate and manage the proposed "international park" with a heavy emphasis on "climate change" and "other environmental factors." Senate Leadership shares the concerns of the Parnell Administration that the proposed MOU may impede future easements for the Red Dog Mine road (which runs through Cape Krusenstern National Monument).
 - c. The MOU appears to be a troubling "step-back" in both substance and procedure from what Congress originally intended in 1957.
2. On page 3 of the MOU there appears to be a substantially increased emphasis on promoting "ecological tourism" and "recreation." While those issues are important they sustain a mere fraction of the affected economy in the region.

² See H.Rep.No.624, at 7 (1957).

- a. There is also reference to "sustainable development." However, "sustainable development" is undefined, and, according to many Alaskans, a notoriously nebulous term. "Sustainable development" should be further defined after input and analysis from the stakeholders and the State Administration.
3. Alaska is concerned that NPS authorities may seek to incorrectly stretch their influence beyond park boundaries. Particularly as it pertains to fish and wildlife management. Clear "sideboards" should be included (for the benefit of the Russian government and NPS agents) to understand the "scope of influence." Input should be sought by State agents including the Alaska Board of Game.
4. Communication regarding the MOU has not met the expectations of many of the affected residents. Before finalization, Alaskans should have another opportunity (through public hearings) to give their recommended changes and improvements. The Governor of Alaska (or his designee), along with the locally affected Russian government official, should be included in the proposed development of the joint action plan.

Sincerely,



Senator Charlie Huggins



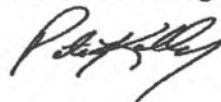
Senator Lesil McGuire



Senator Kevin Meyer



Senator John Coghill



Senator Pete Kelly

Enclosed: Draft October 28, 2013 Memorandum of Understanding

cc: Governor Sean Parnell
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Congressman Don Young
Alaska Attorney General Michael Geraghty

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4843
Fax: (907) 465-3871



District
716 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133
Phone: (907) 269-0181
Fax: (907) 269-0184

SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL

Sponsor Statement SJR 15 Opposing International Designations

Senate Joint Resolution 15 urges the federal government to cease pursuing the creation of the Beringia International Park. This Bering Strait-region transboundary park proposal is currently progressing via a Memorandum of Understanding written by representatives of the Russian government and our then United States Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, present Secretary of State John Kerry and the National Park Service.

This park designation, spanning from eastern Russia over to northwestern Alaska attempts to bond Russian and northwestern Alaska cultures together, recognizing their subsistence lifestyles and historic geographic, archaeological and cultural ties.

While this MOU has yet to be signed by the President of the United States, the planning and execution has been advancing over the years, quietly, without any efforts to coordinate or consult the citizens of the state of Alaska or its government regarding possible impacts on fish and game resources, oil and gas development or mining opportunities in those proposed regions.

Alaska's United States Senator Lisa Murkowski, as well as Governor Sean Parnell have both outlined their concerns regarding this designation to no avail or consideration; consequently the plan continues to move forward without regard to or input from Congress or the state of Alaska.

It is undeniable that there exists a geographical, cultural and sociological bond that spans eastern Russian and Alaska's western coast; however, designating more Alaska land as an international park to recognize that commonality is not necessary or welcomed by the state as it creates yet another layer of federal bureaucracy and regulation.

SJR 15 strongly urges that the federal government pause this process, consult the State of Alaska for this park designation and any further federal or United Nations designations in the future and that their creation require both the approval of the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.

Please join me in opposition to the creation of the Beringia Transboundary International Park.

Borell Consulting Services LLC

6420 Rockridge Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516
907-230-7580

January 25, 2014

Honorable Cathy Giessel
Resources Committee
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for introducing SJR-15 which opposes international designations of lands and waters of Alaska unless previously approved by the State Legislature and U.S. Congress.

International land designations such as International Parks, World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves provide one more mechanism for environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) to harass and block development projects. Over the past 25 years I have watched how such designations have been used against projects around the world.

The New World Mine in Montana was blocked in large part by pressure from local and international ENGOS arguing that it was adjacent to Yellowstone National Park, a World Heritage Site. The proposed mine was across the Wyoming border in Montana; it was several miles into Montana; it was on a drainage flowing away from the Park; it was in an historic mining district where mining first began more than 100 years ago; the mine would have cleaned up the historic tailings and environmental problems from the early mining that occurred before current environmental criteria; the mine would have created several hundred skilled, year-around, high-quality jobs. However, the project was blocked by this pressure.

On December 18, 1996 the Volcanoes of Kamchatka World Heritage Site was "enrolled" as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations office that manages such listings. That very day ENGOS sent letters and press releases pressuring the Overseas Private Insurance Corporation (OPIC) to not provide political risk insurance for the proposed Aginskoye Mine because it was near this new World Heritage Site. The area of the proposed mine was not some pristine site. It included all manner of facilities and a village of more than 1000 people that had been exploring the area for a dozen years. If memory serves me, when Russia realized what was happening it moved the boundary of the World Heritage Site and the mine was built. Try that in the U.S.

A uranium mine in Australia that had been in operation for more than 10 years needed additional permits when it came under ENGO attack. It was surrounded by a World Heritage Site and the internationally-organized-connected ENGOS staged protests in Europe outside the board meeting of the company that was buying the yellowcake from the mine.

I cringe to think of what would have happened to the Red Dog Mine if Cape Krusenstern National Monument had been designated an international park as is now being proposed by the

U.S. State Department. The road across Krusenstern required an Act of Congress and I am certain the ENGOs would have lobbied hard against that Act. If such a park was created today what affect would it have on: making changes to the Red Dog Port (DeLong Mountains Transportation System); commercial fishing; developing Port Clarence for spill and emergency response vessels; offshore drilling; other offshore minerals exploration; development of state and private lands?

The very existence of an internationally designated area can and has been used in an attempt to block development on adjacent lands. I would fully expect to see a new international park used to harass and block development on State, Bering Straits Native Corporation and NANA lands.

I urge passage of this SJR-15 to help protect the future of all Alaska with my immediate concern being Western Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Borell", written in a cursive style.

Steven C. Borell, P.E.
Principal

World Heritage Site Examples

- Wrangell St. Elias NP is listed as World Heritage Site – In 1993 ENGOS referenced the designation as a reason to block the Icy Bay Timber Harvest on Chugach Alaska Corporation private lands.
- Yellowstone NP is listed as World Heritage Site – In mid-90s used to generate international pressure to stop the New World Mine in Montana [several miles outside the park, on a drainage flowing away from the park, in an historic mining district, mine would have cleaned up the historic workings].
- Volcanoes of Kamchatka World Heritage Site – listed 12/18/1996. That day Environmental Defense Fund, Pacific Environment & Resource Center and Sierra Club sent letters and press releases demanding that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) not provide political risk and finance insurance for the adjacent Aginskoye Gold Mine.
- Kakadu NP (Australia) is listed – used in attempt to block the Jubilukla uranium project (located adjacent to the 20-year old Ranger Uranium Mine).
- Beringia – not listed yet! So what is Beringia?

From slide presentation by Steve Borell at the Federal Overreach Summit,
Anchorage AK, August 12, 2013



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975

Executive Director

Rick Rogers

2013-2014 Executive Committee

Phil Cochrane, President

L.F. "Len" Horst, Sr. Vice President

Ralph Samuels, Vice President

Eric Fjelstad, Treasurer

Lorna Shaw, Secretary

Tom Maloney, Past President

Bob Berto

Patty Bielawski

Pat Carter

Steve Denton

Ella Ede

Stan Foo

Paul Glavinovich

Bill Jeffress

Scott Jepsen

Wendy Lindskoog

Lance Miller

Kara Moriarty

Hans Neidig

Ethan Schutt

John Shively

Jeanine St. John

Cam Toohey

Directors

Anna Atchison

Greg Baker

John Barnes

Tom Barrett

Dave Benton

Jason Bergerson

Rick Boyles

Jason Brune

Dave Chaput

Steve Connelly

Bob Cox

Dave Cruz

Paula Easley

Brad Evans

Corri Feige

Mike Ferris

Jeff Foley

Pat Foley

Carol Fraser

Tim Gallagher

Ricky Gease

Matt Gill

Dan Graham

Scott Habberstad

Karl Hanneman

Rick Harris

Rock Hengen

Steve Hites

Teresa Imm

Michael Jesperson

Mike Jungreis

Frank Kelly

Thomas Krzewinski

John Lau

Tom Lovas

Thomas Mack

John MacKinnon

Stephanie Madsen

Karen Matthias

Sam Mazzeo

Ron McPheters

James Mery

Eddie Packee

Lisa Parker

Judy Patrick

Charlie Powers

Shannon Price

Glenn Reed

Mike Satre

Keith Silver

Loralie Simon

John Sturgeon

Jan Trigg

Doug Ward

Ex-Officio Members

Senator Mark Begich

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Congressman Don Young

Governor Sean Parnell

February 5, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for SJR 15: *A resolution opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native Corporation without approval by the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.*

Dear Chairwoman Giessel and members of the Senate Resources Committee:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing in support of SJR 15, a resolution opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native Corporation without approval by the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.

RDC is an Alaskan business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. Our membership includes all of the Alaska Native regional corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

It is a policy of RDC to advocate for access to and across lands in Alaska for resource and community development. RDC is concerned the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the creation of the Beringia International Park (Beringia) will create another level of bureaucracy inhibiting access to areas in Alaska.

The area under consideration in this proposed MOU is vast and surrounds many rural communities. The MOU lacks consultation and coordination with local and state government, as well as ignores possible impacts to resources, such as oil and gas, and mining exploration and development.

It is also a policy of RDC to advocate for multiple-use of lands, and resource development in the area could provide economic benefits to the region where well-paying jobs are scarce, as well as improved or added infrastructure and access to areas for multiple-users.

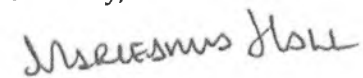
RDC maintains that multiple uses should include mining (exploration, leasing, development) for oil and gas, coal, and minerals, as well as recreational and other potential

uses. With less than one percent of Alaska in conventional private ownership, access should be available on other lands, and should not be restricted by an unprecedented one-size fits all MOU that will likely add another layer of federal bureaucracy.

SJR 15 is timely, given the MOU has yet to be signed by the President. Input from those most knowledgeable about Alaska and Alaska's resources should not be ignored. This MOU could seriously jeopardize the ability to access resources that fall in and around Beringia. In addition, past federal government promises assured access to allow resource development in this area and others not set aside through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The passage of ANILCA in 1980 set aside 106 million acres of federal lands in Alaska as conservation system units. Today, Alaska accounts for 70 percent of all national park lands in the United States, as well as 53 percent of designated Wilderness for all of the U.S.

RDC thanks Senator Giessel for introducing this resolution, and urges the Alaska Legislature to pass SJR 15 and to continue to assert the State of Alaska's rights, and consult with the State on this and any future designations of the State's lands and resources.

Sincerely,



Marleanna Hall
Projects Coordinator

What is an International Park?

- ▣ An International Park would designate a protected area in two countries that would result in sharing information, joint studies, and promoting joint activities
- ▣ Possible Developments After Designation:
 - Restricted resource development
 - Buffer zones – “additional layer of protection”
 - Ramsar Sites – wetlands of international importance
 - Biosphere Reserves
 - World Heritage Sites
- ▣ Examples of these designations:
 - Ramsar Sites: Izembeck Lagoon National Wildlife Refuge
 - Biosphere Reserves: Denali National Park
 - World Heritage Sites: Glacier Bay and Wrangell St. Elias National Parks
 - Buffer Zone: Ongoing effort with Denali National Park



FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version SJR 15
 Fiscal Note Number 1
 () Publish Date 2/5/2014

Identifier (file name) _____ Dept. Affected _____
 Title SJR 15 OPPOSE INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATING OF Appropriation _____
LAND Allocation _____
 Sponsor Senator Giessel _____
 Requester Senate Resources Committee OMB Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY15 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY15 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY15	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other)							
1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF)							
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated **SUPPLEMENTAL (FY14) operating costs** _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated **CAPITAL (FY15) costs** _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency?
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended, or repealed? _____ Discuss details in analysis section.

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Prepared by SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
 Division _____
 Approved by /s/ Senator Giessel, Chair
 Division _____

Phone 465-4843
 Date/Time 2/5/14 12:00 AM
 Date 2/5/2014



Council of
Alaska Producers

**Comments on SJR015
Opposing International Designations**

February 6, 2014

The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Giessel:

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) is writing in support of Senate Joint Resolution 15, a resolution opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native Corporation without approval of the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.

CAP is a non-profit trade association formed in 1992 and serves as a spokesperson for the large metal mines and major metal developmental projects in the state. Bringing together mining companies with interest in Alaska, the Council represents and informs members on legislative and regulatory issues, supports and advances the mining industry, educates members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues, and promotes economic opportunity and environmentally sound mining practices.

Governor Sean Parnell and U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski have expressed concern that the federal government has not consulted the State of Alaska on its proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation to create the Berengia International Park.

Locking up land in an international park simply adds more federal bureaucracy to the management of Alaska's lands and marine resources. CAP does not support measures that could impede access to Alaska's lands or preclude the development of resources on those lands.

Thank you for introducing this resolution and for your efforts to ensure that Alaska can continue to develop its resources for the maximum benefit of its people.

Sincerely,

Karen Matthias
Managing Consultant



ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 120 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907) 563-9229 www.alaskaminers.org

February 6, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

The Alaska Miners Association writes to express its support for Senate Joint Resolution 15, opposing any land designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation without approval by the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,500 individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

AMA does not support actions that decrease or prevent access to Alaska's lands. In 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) designated millions of acres within Alaska as conservation system units, and more importantly, issued a promise that "No More" lands would be precluded from a multiple-use, fully accessible classification. The Federal government today should keep that promise, and block no further acreage from access, exploration, and with hope, development of all uses.

Thank you for introducing this resolution and ensuring lands within Alaska remain available for the maximum benefit of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director

DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2314 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-5765



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 7, 2014

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

Honorable Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Senator
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing to express my support for SJR15, opposing designations in Alaska. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input regarding SJR15 and thank you for your leadership and steadfastness in protecting the rights of Alaskans.

As you know, Alaskans remain unconvinced that the proposed Beringia International Park will actually benefit those who live in the region. To the contrary, the most direct impact is likely to be another layer of federal bureaucracy that serves only to restrict Alaskans' rightful access to, and lawful activities on their public lands.

My staff has met with representatives for the Shared Beringia Heritage Program and I signed a letter to Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell and Secretary of State, John Kerry last October expressing my concern over this concept. To date, nothing has changed. In fact, I have not yet received a response from Secretary Jewell on the matter. The proposed "sister park" arrangement, with its cross-border collaboration and cooperation defined by the MOU, continues to present several potential problems for Alaskans, and local communities still stand to receive no direct benefit to my knowledge. I have not received any assurance from this Administration that Subsistence activities nor access to resources are adequately protected. New limitations are still likely to deprive Alaskans rather than foster economic opportunities, particularly with regard to resource development.

In my view, international influence has been excessive in crafting this proposal while local, State and Alaska Native participation has been insufficient. Although the Department of the Interior has made cursory attempts to address these concerns, it is difficult to fathom how additional bureaucracy will do anything but further slow and complicate decisions by federal agencies in the Bering Strait region. Accordingly, Alaskans continue to communicate to us their valid apprehension over negative impacts an international arrangement could have. It is also my view that the proposed MOU could be designed as an administrative "taking" of lands without the approval of Congress, once again, violating the "no more clause" of ANILCA.

Please be assured that I will continue the fight against the over-reach of our federal government as well as any proposal such as this that would allow further intrusion by not only our own government, but that of an international entity. SJR15 supports this view and will assist me in advising my colleagues in

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
[HTTP://DON.YOUNG.HOUSE.GOV](http://donyoung.house.gov)

4241 B STREET
SUITE 203
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
907-271-5978

100 CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 307
P.O. BOX 73110
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707
907-456-0210

612 W. WILLOUGHBY AVENUE, SUITE B
P.O. BOX 21247
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802
907-586-7400

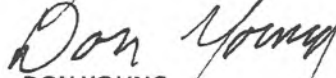
805 FRONTAGE ROAD
SUITE 110
KENAI, ALASKA 99611
907-283-7701

CALL TOLL-FREE
1-866-990-5979

Congress as well as the Obama Administration that Alaskans will not stand idly by while more lands are subjected to increased federal bureaucracy.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this very important matter and thank you for your continued dedication to the matter. I look forward to working with you and all in the Alaska State Legislature.

Sincerely,


DON YOUNG
Congressman for All Alaska