

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1735

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1997-1998



Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

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STATEMENT OF BART KOEHLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REGARDING S.660 UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FEDERAL LAND GRANT

BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 11, 1997

Mr. Chairman, and members of this Committee:

My name is Bart Koehler, and I am the Executive Director for the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC). I respectfully request that my written statement and accompanying materials be entered into the official record of this Committee Hearing.

Founded in 1970, SEACC is a coalition of 15 local citizen, volunteer conservation groups in 12 Southeast Alaska communities, from Ketchikan to Yakutat. SEACC's individual members include commercial fishermen, Alaskan Natives, small timber operators and value-added wood manufacturers, tourism and recreation business owners, hunters, guides, and Alaskans from all walks of life. SEACC is dedicated to preserving the integrity of Southeast Alaska's unsurpassed natural environment while providing for balanced, sustainable use of our region's resources.

The Alaska Delegation's frontal assault on the Tongass National Forest.

After proposing 17 unsuccessful legislative initiatives to roll back Tongass reforms in the last Congress, the Alaska Delegation is once again trying to open up the Tongass to increased logging. See Exhibit 1. Senate Bill 660 is a yet another attack in an unprecedented assault aimed at rolling back balanced management provisions, and undermining the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) which passed the Senate by a resounding 99-0 vote. **Once again, the Alaska Delegation is attempting to take large chunks of the Tongass and dedicate these public forest lands to some massive exploitation scheme. With each new bill, the tactics change but the goal remains the same -- attack the Tongass.**

SEACC Opposes S.660

SEACC strongly opposes S.660, because it is directly attacking the Tongass, because it is an assault on our National Forests and public lands, and because the State of Alaska has already gotten enough land from the Federal Government.

LYNN CANAL CONSERVATION, Haines • FRIENDS OF GLACIER BAY, Gustavus • FRIENDS OF BERNERS BAY, Juneau
WRANGELL RESOURCE COUNCIL • ALASKA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FOREST DWELLERS, Point Baker • PELICAN FORESTRY COUNCIL
ALASKANS FOR JUNEAU • NARROWS CONSERVATION COALITION, Petersburg • TONGASS CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Ketchikan
CHICHAGOF CONSERVATION COUNCIL, Tenakee • JUNEAU GROUP SIERRA CLUB • SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY
TAKU CONSERVATION SOCIETY, Juneau • PRINCE OF WALES CONSERVATION LEAGUE, Craig • YAKUTAT RESOURCE CONSERVATION COUNCIL



On April 28, 1997, Senator Murkowski introduced S. 660, the "University of Alaska Lands (Grab) Bill." This public land giveaway would allow the University to select at least 250,000 acres of National Forests and other federal lands within Alaska that are not "conservation system units" (conservation system units as defined in ANILCA (Public Law 96-487) include National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Monuments, and Wilderness Areas). This bill threatens the Legislated LUD II areas set aside by the Tongass Timber Reform Act -- areas that Senators Murkowski and Stevens and 97 other U.S. Senators voted to protect "in perpetuity" in 1990. And that's not all: up to 250,000 additional acres of National Forest and other Federal lands could be selected if matched by an equal acreage from State lands. Under this bill, half a million acres of public land, including lands within the Tongass National Forest, could be selected for clearcutting and other damaging uses.

This bill threatens 723,000 acres of wildlands important to Southeast communities and citizens for commercial and sport fishing, subsistence and sport hunting, recreation, and other uses. These important fish and wildlife watersheds were "permanently" set off limits to logging in the 1990 TTRA. Now, Senator Murkowski is willing to sacrifice these critical areas for one purpose -- creating income for the University of Alaska.

Forced to squeeze as much revenue out of their lands as possible, the University has never acted as careful stewards. The University will select lands which they can turn into cash fast -- they will target Tongass old-growth timber lands and level them as quickly as possible. The University does not manage for multiple use, instead they manage their lands much like private lands -- laying down massive clearcuts and exporting round logs, while placing the absolute minimum protections on fish and wildlife habitat. *see photo*

This bill threatens the following Tongass areas:

- Wildlands protected by the Tongass Timber Reform Act that weren't designated as "conservation system units" (this includes all the Legislated LUD II areas). The University could select from these 723,000 acres of prime old-growth forests important for fish and wildlife habitat - places like *Kadashan, Naha, Nutkwa, Berners Bay, Point Adolphus/Mud Bay, Lisianski Inlet, Calder-Holbrook, Salmon Bay Lake, Anan Creek, Trap Bay, Outside Islands, Upper Hoonah Sound, and the Yakutat Forelands.*
- Unprotected Tongass wildlands important to Southeast Alaska communities, including: *Cleveland Peninsula, Port Houghton, Mansfield Peninsula, Honker Divide, East Kuiu, Ushk Bay, Deep Bay, and Upper Tenakee Inlet.*

Alaskan support for protecting TTRA Legislated LUD II areas runs wide and deep. 15 Southeast Alaskan communities, the State of Alaska, 5 Native organizations, the statewide United Fishermen of Alaska and all of Southeast Alaska's regional commercial fishing organizations, plus many other groups and individuals, have been on record in support of protecting these important fish and wildlife watersheds. *See attached* Furthermore, Alaska Senators Murkowski and Stevens and 97 other U.S. Senators voted to protect these very same areas.

This bill as currently written contains no provision which would exclude these TTRA Legislated LUD II areas and lands set-aside by the new Tongass National Forest Plan Revision, or other Tongass National Forest lands from selection by the University.

So far 10 S.E. Alaskan Communities and 2 Tribal Governments have gone on record opposing this legislation. ** See attached **

Senator Murkowski tried to gain passage of a similar Bill last year, during the Omnibus Parks Bill debate. At the very least, last year's final and unsuccessful version of this Bill did not allow the selection of any National Forest lands in Alaska. Last year's language eliminated the problem of selecting the TTRA Legislated LUD II areas and other key lands in the Tongass National Forest and Chugach National Forest.

Setting the Record Straight

University Owns More Than 112,000 Acres: Much has been made of the point that Alaska only received 112,000 acres for its land grant university, and that Alaska ranks 48th among the States for federal land given to its system of higher education. First of all, the **University of Alaska holds title to roughly 140,000 acres of fee simple land.** That acreage figure would give Alaska a higher ranking than Senator Murkowski has indicated. Second, when you add in all of the University's land trust holdings, including fee simple lands (140,223 acres), surface rights only (16,585 acres), subsurface rights only (1,020 acres), harvestable timber only (15,000 acres), and agricultural rights only (789 acres), you see that **the University currently holds 173,326 acres of investment property** -- much more than the 112,000 acres cited by Senator Murkowski.
**** see attached ****

Alaska Was Actually Granted 186,000 Acres By Congress: Based on grants made by Congress in 1915, 1929, and 1980, the State Alaska was granted 186,000 acres of land for higher education. (see discussion of Federal Grants, below). Senator Murkowski never has mentioned the grant of 75,000 acres in Sec.906(b) of ANILCA in 1980. The 186,000 acres of federal lands grant total would then rank Alaska as #34, just below California and Arkansas, and above 17 other states.

The Morrill Act Federal Land Grants Were Based on Population: While Senator Murkowski claims that Alaska ranks 48th among the states for federal land given to its university system (according to the figures provided by Sen. Murkowski in the April 28, 1997 Congressional Record), Alaska also ranks 49th among the states for population (1990 US Census). The Morrill Act grants were based on population. For every current Alaska resident, the federal government has given 1/5 of an acre of land to the University of Alaska system. This is almost twice the per capita amount given to Rhode Island residents for their higher education system, 3 times the amount given to Washington state residents, almost 4 times the amount given to New York state residents, 19 times the amount given to Texas residents, and 31 times the amount of land given to the University of California for every resident of that state.

Look At The Number Of Students: Only 23,354 students are enrolled in the University of Alaska system statewide. **That means for every student, the federal government has given Alaska almost 5 acres of federal land** --- this is roughly 4 times the amount of land given to University of California students, each of which is supported by 1.2 acres of federal land grant (with at least 165,000 students in the U.C. System.)

Federal Land Grants

1862 & The Morrill Act: The Alaska Delegation has noted that in 1862, the Morrill Act passed, "... which created the land-grant colleges and universities as a way to underwrite the cost of higher education ... these colleges and universities received land from the Federal Government for facility location and...as a way to provide for sustaining revenues to those educational institutions." Then they went on to note that "**The grants were based on population** as measured by the size of the delegation with each state receiving approximately 30,000 acres per member." **If Alaska had been granted university lands under the Morrill Act, it would have received 90,000 acres.**

In 1915, while still a territory, Alaska Delegate James Wickersham pushed a measure thru Congress which set aside approximately 250,000 acres in the Tanana Valley to support an agricultural college and school of mines. However, the land could not be transferred to the college until it was surveyed. **Eventually, roughly 11,000 acres were transferred to the University of Alaska** before the federal land grant was revoked.

In 1929, while still a territory, Congress granted 100,000 acres to the Alaska Agriculture College and School of Mines.

In 1958, Congress granted Alaska Statehood and according to Alaska Delegation statements,..."with the passage of Statehood the 'internal improvement grants' including the (hoped-for) University's 500,000 acres and 500,000 acres for the University's teacher training programs (these grants were part of the statehood bills during the 1950s) were consolidated into the 100 million acre general grant, leaving disposition of all 102+ million acres at the discretion of the legislature. Passage of the Statehood bill virtually ended all discussion of federal land grants." **The Statehood Act extinguished all land entitlements for Alaska, including the Morrill Act.**

We must point out that Alaska was granted 104 million acres of federal land under the Statehood Act. (That's an land area bigger than the State of California!) 19 States received less than 1 million acres each of federal land. (Alaska got at least 100 times more land than these States.) 21 States received from 10 million acres down to 2.7 million acres. (Alaska got 10 times to almost 50 times more land than these States.) Given these facts, we submit that Alaska should be the last State in the Union to ever receive more federal public land from Congress. Yet Alaska got even more land later.

1980 -- Congress Grants Alaska Another 75,000 Acres For Education: As if the 104 million acre Statehood Grant wasn't enough, Section 906 (b) of ANILCA (Public Law 96-487) granted the State of Alaska an additional 75,000 acres as a "full and final settlement of any and all claims by the State of Alaska arising under the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1214), as confirmed and transferred in section 6(k) of the Alaska Statehood Act..." **In our minds this definitely refers to University of Alaska land claims.** This School Lands Settlement provision granted 75,000 acres from vacant, unappropriated and unreserved public lands. The State was entitled to select these lands until January 4, 1994. The provision then went on to state, "In exercising the selection rights granted herein, the State shall be deemed to have relinquished all claims to any right, title or interest to any school lands which failed to vest under the above statutes at the time Alaska became a State (January 3, 1959), including lands unsurveyed at that date or surveyed lands which were within Federal reservations or withdrawals on that date."

Senator Murkowski's introductory statement never mentions this provision of ANILCA. We believe that this provision pertains to University land claims under the 1915 Act. By our calculations, acts of Congress in 1915, 1929, and 1980 granted the State of Alaska 186,000 acres of Federal Land for the University of Alaska's educational needs. And the 1980 provision was supposed to be the "full and final settlement of any and all claims by the State of Alaska arising under the Act of March 4, 1915..." The 1915 Act granted lands for the University, and the 1929 Act granted more lands to the University. Later the Statehood Act extinguished further land grants, and then in 1980, after granting even more lands, ANILCA extinguished further land grants again.

Telling Comments

Senator Murkowski made two telling comments in his introductory statement.... "The University of Alaska received the smallest amount of land of any State, with the exception of Delaware.." (and Hawaii didn't get a single acre) and then went on to say, "In a State the size of Alaska...we should logically have one of the best and most fully funded land-grant colleges in the country." He completely misses three points: 1) that the University land grants were based on population size, not the total acreage of the state; 2) that the 1915 and 1929 Acts and the generous 104 million acre Statehood grant to Alaska (which extinguished any land claims) should have provided the State of Alaska with ways to properly fund its own University system without needing any more federal land grants; and, 3) that Alaska was granted another 75,000 acres of federal land for schools as part of the "full and final settlement of any and all claims by the State of Alaska..." in ANILCA in 1980. Clearly, Alaska has gotten enough Federal Land.

Alaska is rich in resources: it has no state income tax, it gives away roughly \$1000 each year for every man, woman and child in the State as a permanent fund dividend, and it was granted 104 million acres of land....far more than any other state. More than one Governor of Alaska have vetoed bills to grant State lands to the University. If Governors of Alaska don't want to grant State land to the University, then why on earth should the Congress be asked to grant large tracts of public lands instead?

We've heard alot about the University of Alaska's financial woes. In recent years the Alaska State Legislature has slashed millions of dollars from the University's budget. If the University of Alaska needs more funding, then they should get it from the State legislature. By no means should the University of Alaska be allowed to raid the public's lands and the public's National Forests -- not on the Tongass, not on the Chugach, not anywhere.

So now, almost 40 years after Statehood extinguished all land entitlements for Alaska, and almost 20 years since ANILCA extinguished them again, why the push for this legislation? We submit that with their powerful positions in Congress, the Alaska Delegation sees this as a golden opportunity to strike at the heart of lands protected by the Tongass Timber Reform Act and to try to pull off a land grab in our largest National Forest.

Dismantling Our National Forest Heritage

This issue is far bigger than just a simple transfer of public lands in Alaska to the University of Alaska. If this bill passes it will set the dangerous precedent of raiding and dismantling our National Forest System ---- a living legacy of great importance to the American people. This bill will take this public lands legacy out of the public's hands, and give those lands to a University which has a terrible track record of huge damaging clearcuts in Alaska. (Also, the University's track record shows it would be busy chopping up those former public lands into "waterfront and scenic view" lots to sell off to private owners. *see attached*.)

Teddy Roosevelt once said, "I oppose the land-skinner every time." If Teddy were here to see how the University of Alaska has skinned off the land they've managed, and heard that Senator Murkowski was trying to give the University of Alaska hundreds of thousands of acres from our National Forests in Alaska --- National Forests that Teddy established in 1907 --- I'm convinced that this bill would be stopped dead in its tracks.

We feel very strongly about even thinking about taking the public lands out of the public's hands....particularly our National Forest lands. During the last Congress, Representative Don Young introduced a bill which proposed giving the Tongass National Forest to the State of Alaska. At that time we stated, "the bill is striking at the very heart of the century-old, all American concept of public forest lands. To many Americans, the concept of being an owner of our public National Forest lands is one of our most strongly held freedoms. This is a freedom where Alaskans can pick a spot on the Tongass map, climb into a float plane or skiff and go there. They can hunt, fish, hike and camp. When they leave, they leave with the knowledge that they can return to the same spot on their public land, again and again. This is a freedom that we hold dear.....and you want to rip it away."

This statement rings true today, and therefore we must strongly oppose passage of S. 660.

⑥

City of Tenakee Springs

RESOLUTION 97-26

In the Council
May 22, 1997


Introduced by
Samuel E. McBeen

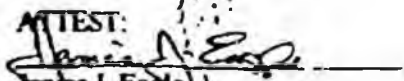
**A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF TENAKEE SPRINGS, ALASKA,
OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL #S660, UNIVERSITY LANDS BILL.**

- WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill (S660) introduced in Congress would transfer at least 250,000 acres of federal lands to the University of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS, lands open for selection by the University of Alaska include lands from the Tongass National Forest, including legislated LUD II areas such as Kadashan and Trap Bay; and
- WHEREAS, the Community of Tenakee Springs depends on Trap Bay, Kadashan, and other forest lands within Tenakee Inlet for a variety of uses including subsistence, commercial and sport fishing, recreation and tourism; and
- WHEREAS, the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 set aside lands in Trap Bay and Kadashan as Legislative LUD II areas to preserve their wildland character in perpetuity; and
- WHEREAS, other forest lands in Tenakee Inlet have already undergone extensive clearcut logging and road building, causing harm to the residents of Tenakee Springs; and
- WHEREAS, the University of Alaska manages its lands to produce the most revenue possible; and
- WHEREAS, the University of Alaska currently practices industrial scale clearcut logging on its forest lands with insufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat and no in-state processing of its logs; and
- WHEREAS, for the first time since statehood, the Tongass National Forest is free from the burden of the long-term contracts and the opportunity now exists to create long-term jobs for Alaskan through the local manufacture of high value-added wood products; and
- WHEREAS, Governor Tony Knowles opposes the selection of Tongass National Forest Lands by the University of Alaska;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Tenakee Springs hereby opposes the University of Alaska Lands Bill (S660) and any other attempts to give Tongass National Forest lands, including lands in Tenakee Inlet, to the University of Alaska.

ADOPTED 4 YES, 3 ABSENT THIS 22ND DAY OF MAY 1997


Louis S. Heins
City Council President
ex officio MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janice J. Eagle
City Clerk



City of Pelican

BOX 737 - PELICAN, ALASKA 99892 - PHONE 735-2202 - FAX 735-2258

CITY OF PELICAN, ALASKA RESOLUTION 1997-10

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL NO. S660, UNIVERSITY LANDS BILL

WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill (S660) introduced in Congress would transfer at least 250,000 acres of federal lands to the University of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, lands open for selection by the University of Alaska include lands from the Tongass National Forest, including legislated LUD II areas such as Kadashan and Trap Bay; and,

WHEREAS, the Community of Tenakee Springs depends on Trap Bay, Kadashan, and other forest lands within Tenakee Inlet for a variety of uses including subsistence, commercial and sport fishing, recreation and tourism; and,

WHEREAS, the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 set aside lands in Trap Bay and Kadashan as Legislative LUD II areas to preserve their wild-land character in perpetuity; and,

WHEREAS, other forest lands in Tenakee Inlet have already undergone extensive clearcut logging and road building, causing harm to the residents of Tenakee Springs; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska manages its lands to produce the most revenue possible; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska currently practices industrial scale clearcut logging on its forest lands with insufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat and no in-state processing of its logs; and,

WHEREAS, for the first time since statehood, the Tongass National Forest is free from the burden of the long-term contracts, and the opportunity now exists to create long-term jobs for Alaskans through the local manufacture of high value-added wood products; and,

RESOLUTION 1997-10

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WHEREAS, Governor Tony Knowles opposes the selection of Tongass National Forest lands by the University of Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the City of Pelican opposes the University of Alaska Lands Bill (S660) and any other attempts to give Tongass National Forest lands, including lands in Tenakee Inlet, to the University of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Pelican City Council this 10th day of July, 1997.

Cheryl A. Young
Cheryl A. Young, Mayor Pro Tempore

Attest:

Betty L. McClain
Betty L. McClain, City Clerk/Treasurer

City of Kupreanof

of

Kupreanof, Alaska 99833

RESOLUTION 97-4

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KUPREANOF, ALASKA, opposing the "University of Alaska Lands Bill" - Senate Bill 660.

WHEREAS, the City of Kupreanof has supported the passage of the Tongass Timber Reform Act and advocated the no clear-cutting protections of Land Use Designation (LUD) II to many important areas of the Tongass National Forest, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 660 would allow clearcutting in those LUD II areas, and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska has been forced to clearcut its lands in order to fund its activities resulting in significant damage to fish and wildlife habitat and significant impacts to subsistence, tourism and commercial fishing, and

WHEREAS, funding of University of Alaska should be less dependent upon the liquidation of natural resources and more dependent upon general fund monies, and

WHEREAS, future generations of Alaskans will not be able to use this same avenue for funding of education due to the non-sustainable resource extraction,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF KUPREANOF opposes the "University of Alaska Lands Bill" - Senate Bill 660.

Passed and approved by a duly constituted quorum of the City of Kupreanof, Alaska, this 10th day of June, 1997.

David M. Beck
Mayor

Emily V. Merriam
City Clerk

Gustavus Community Association



Post Office Box 62
Gustavus, Alaska 99826

A RESOLUTION OF THE GUSTAVUS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL #S660, UNIVERSITY LANDS BILL, PASSED AT THE AUGUST 14, 1997 GENERAL MEETING OF THE GUSTAVUS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill (S660) introduced in Congress would transfer at least 250,000 acres of federal lands to the University of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, lands open for selection by the University of Alaska include lands from the Tongass National Forest, including legislated LUD II areas such as Point Adolphus and Mud Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Community of Gustavus depends on Point Adolphus, Mud Bay, and other forest lands in the Icy Strait area for a variety of uses including subsistence, commercial and sport fishing, recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 set aside lands at Point Adolphus and Mud Bay as Legislated LUD II areas to preserve their wild character in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, other forest lands in Icy Strait area have already undergone extensive clearcut logging, and road building, causing harm to the residents of Gustavus; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska manages its lands to produce the most revenue possible; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska currently practices industrial scale clearcut logging on its forest lands with insufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and makes no provision for in state processing of its logs; and

WHEREAS, for the first time since statehood, the Tongass National Forest is free from the burden of the long-term contracts and the opportunity now exists to create long-term jobs for Alaskans through the local manufacture of high value-added wood products; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gustavus Community Association hereby opposes the University of Alaska Lands Bill (S660) and any other attempts to give Tongass National Forest lands, particularly lands in Icy Strait, to the University of Alaska.

SIGNED

Colleen Stausbury
Acting President, GCA

Community of Elfin Cove Non-Profit Corporation

POST OFFICE BOX ONE
ELFIN COVE, ALASKA 99828

A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMUNITY OF ELFIN COVE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION, ALASKA, OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL SB660, UNIVERSITY LANDS BILL

WHEREAS, SB660 WOULD TRANSFER FEDERAL LANDS, INCLUDING LEGISLATED LUD II AREAS, TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, THE COMMUNITY OF ELFIN COVE BELIEVES THE BEST MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR FEDERAL LAND IN THE ADJACENT AREA IS LUD II DESIGNATION;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COMMUNITY OF ELFIN COVE OPPOSES SB660.

ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CORPORATION ON AUGUST 1, 1997 BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

signed by 

JIM WILD, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER

FOR:
COMMUNITY OF ELFIN COVE NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 97-20**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL #660.

WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill (S660) introduced in congress would transfer at least 250,000 acres of federal lands to the University of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill would transfer an additional 250,000 acres of federal lands with an equal amount of State lands to the University of Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, lands open for selection by the University of Alaska include lands from the Tongass National Forest within the Yakutat Borough, including legislated LUD II lands in the Yakutat Forelands; and,

WHEREAS, residents of the Yakutat Borough depend on the Yakutat Forelands, and other Federal lands within the Yakutat Borough for a variety of uses including subsistence, commercial and sport fishing, recreation, and tourism; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska manages its lands to produce the most revenue possible; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska currently practices industrial scale clear cut logging on its forest lands with insufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and no in state processing of its logs; and,

WHEREAS, the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 set aside lands on the Yakutat Foreland as a Legislative LUD II Area to preserve their wild land character in perpetuity; and,

WHEREAS, lands selected by the University of Alaska would lose the protections gained by the Tongass Timber Reform Act, and the measures provided by Tongass Land Management Plan (as revised in 1997) to protect fish and wildlife habitat, and other uses of the Tongass; and,

WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill as written would eliminate the opportunity for the Yakutat Borough or any other person or group, except the University, to challenge future land selections in court.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT that:

City & Borough of Yakutat
Resolution 97-20
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Yakutat opposes U.S. Senate Bill 660 (S660) as presented.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF July, 1997.



Jayla C. Valle
DARYL R. JAMES
Mayor *Mayor Pro-Tempore.*

Mona Swanson
MONA SWANSON
Clerk

RESOLUTION 97-11

**A Resolution for the City of Kake, Alaska Opposing
U.S. Senate Bill #S660, University Lands Bill**

WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill (S660) introduced in Congress would transfer at least 250,000 acres of federal lands to the University of Alaska ; and,

WHEREAS, lands open for selection by the University of Alaska include lands from the Tongass National Forest, including Port Camden, Security Bay, Saginaw Bay, Kadake's Bay, Hamilton Bay and Southeastern Kuiu Island; and,

WHEREAS, residents of the community of Kake depend upon Port Camden, Security Bay, Saginaw Bay, Kadake's Bay, Hamilton Bay and Southeastern Kuiu Island and other forest lands on Kupreanof and Kuiu Islands for a variety of uses including subsistence, commercial and sport fishing, recreation, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, other forest lands on Kupreanof and Kuiu Islands have already undergone extensive clear-cut logging or are scheduled to be clear-cut without sufficient evaluation as to the cumulative effects of such development on fish and wildlife populations; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska manages it's lands to produce the most revenue possible; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska currently practices industrial scale clear-cut logging on it's forest lands with insufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat and no on-state processing of it's logs; and

WHEREAS, for the first time since statehood the Tongass National Forest is free from the burden of the long-term contracts to provide high volumes of timber to the pulp mills; and

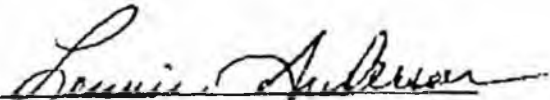
WHEREAS, the opportunity now exists to create long-term jobs for Alaskans through the local manufacture of high value-added wood products; and


Page Two
Resolution 97-11

WHEREAS, Governor Tony Knowles opposes the selection of Tongass National Forest lands by the University of Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kake City Council hereby opposes the University of Alaska Lands Bill (S660) and any other attempts to give Tongass National Forest lands, including lands on Kupreanof and Kulu Islands, to the University of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Kake City Council on this 25th day of June, 1997.


Lonnie Anderson, Mayor


Diane DiPietro Wilson
Clerk



CITY OF ANGOON • PHONE (907) 788-3653

P.O. BOX 189 • FAX (907) 788-3821
ANGOON, ALASKA 99820

RESOLUTION 98-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ANGOON, ALASKA OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL #660, UNIVERSITY LANDS BILL.

- WHEREAS:** The University Lands Bill (#660) would transfer at least 250,000 acres of Federal Lands to the University of Alaska; and,
- WHEREAS:** Lands open for selection by the University of Alaska include lands from the Tongass National Forest, including Baranof and Chichagof Islands and the Mansfield Peninsula on Admiralty Island; and,
- WHEREAS:** Residents of Angoon depend on the lands and waters on the west side of Chathan Strait for a variety of uses, including subsistence, commercial and sport fishing guiding, recreation and tourism; and,
- WHEREAS:** Forest land on the west side of Chatham Strait, Peril Strait, Tenakee Inlet, Point Augusta to the west (Cross Sound) and Cube Cove Admiralty Island) have been extensively logged (clear-cut) or are scheduled to be logged without adequate protection for fish and wildlife population; and,
- WHEREAS:** Under University ownership lands will be logged more extensively ~~and~~ under Forest Service management (with even less fish and wildlife protection); and,
- WHEREAS:** Other southeast communities are experiencing restrictions in subsistence and other uses of fish and wildlife resources and are looking to Admiralty Island to try and satisfy those lost opportunities; and,
- WHEREAS:** Admiralty Island can no longer accommodate the displaced uses of other communities and those communities deserve to have their local use areas protected; and,
- WHEREAS:** For the first time since Statehood, the Tongass National Forest is free from the burden of the long-term contracts that relied on industrial logging; and,
- WHEREAS:** The opportunity now exists to create long-term jobs for Alaskans through sustainable value-added manufacture of wood products versus exportation of raw logs; and,
- WHEREAS:** Governor Tony Knowles opposes the selection of Tongass National Forest lands by the University of Alaska; and,

CITY OF ANGOON
RESOLUTION 98-01
OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL #660
UNIVERSITY LANDS BILL
PAGE-2-

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The CITY OF ANGOON opposes the University of Alaska Lands Bill (#660) and any other attempts to give Tongass National Forest lands to the University of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the ANGOON CITY COUNCIL, this 15th day of JULY, 1997.

FOR THE CITY OF ANGOON:

Pauline Jim

MS. PAULINE JIM, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Francine J. Willis

FRANCINE J. WILLIS, CITY CLERK



CITY OF PORT ALEXANDER

P.O. Box 8068 Port Alexander, AK 99836 907/568-2211 Fax 907/568-2211

RESOLUTION 97-8

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF PORT ALEXANDER, ALASKA
OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL #S660, UNIVERSITY LANDS BILL


- WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill (S660) introduced in Congress would transfer at least 250,000 acres of federal lands to the University of Alaska; and
- WHEREAS, lands open for selection by the University of Alaska include lands from the Tongass National Forest; and
- WHEREAS, the Community of Port Alexander depends on the Tongass National Forest for a variety of uses including subsistence, commercial and sport fishing, recreation, and tourism; and
- WHEREAS, the University of Alaska manages its lands to produce the most revenue possible; and
- WHEREAS, the University of Alaska currently practices industrial-scale clear-cut logging on its forest lands with insufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and no in-state processing of its logs; and
- WHEREAS, for the first time since statehood, the Tongass National Forest is free from the burden of the long-term contracts, and the opportunity now exists to create long-term jobs for Alaskans through the local manufacture of high value-added wood products; and
- WHEREAS, Governor Tony Knowles opposes the selection of Tongass National Forest Lands by the University of Alaska;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Port Alexander City Council hereby opposes the University of Alaska Lands Bill (S660) and any other attempts to give Tongass National Forest lands to the University of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Port Alexander City Council on this 15th day of August, 1977.


Debra Rose Gifford, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jackie T. Garnick, City Clerk

A RESOLUTION BY THE WHALE PASS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION,
WHALE PASS, ALASKA, OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL SB660.

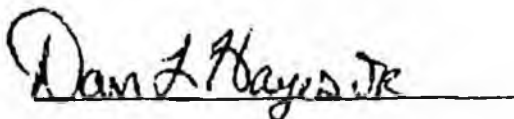
WHEREAS, SB660 WOULD TRANSFER FEDERAL LANDS, INCLUDING
LEGISLATED LUD II AREAS, TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA,

WHEREAS, THE WHALE PASS HOMEOWNERS DEPEND ON THE TONGASS
FOR A VARIETY OF USES INCLUDING SUBSISTENCE, SPORT FISHING
RECREATION, TOURISM AND A SMALL BUT VITAL GROUP OF SAWMILLS

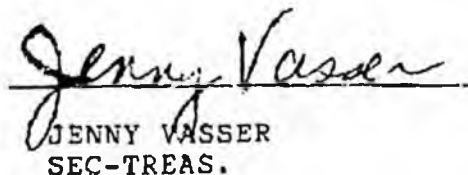
WHEREAS, THE WHALE PASS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION BELIEVES
THE BEST MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR FEDERAL LAND IN THE ADJACENT
AREA IS LUD II DESIGNATION;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WHALE PASS HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION HEREBY OPPOSES THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA LANDS
BILL SB660 AND ANY OTHER ATTEMPT TO GIVE TONGASS NATIONAL
FOREST LANDS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

ADOPTED AUGUST 18, 1997



DAN HAYES, JR
PRESIDENT, WHALE PASS
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



JENNY VASSER
SEC-TREAS.



Hoonah Indian Association



P.O. Box 602
Hoonah, AK 99829-0602
Phone (907) 945-3545 Fax (907) 945-3703

RESOLUTION # 97-11

TITLE: A RESOLUTION BY THE HOONAH INDIAN ASSOCIATION OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL #S660, UNIVERSITY LANDS BILL

WHEREAS, the Hoonah Indian Association is a federally recognized tribe in accordance with and by the authority of the Acts of Congress of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250); and

WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill (S660) introduced in Congress would transfer at least 250,000 acres of federal lands to the University of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, lands open for selection by the University of Alaska include lands from the Tongass National Forest, including legislated LUD II areas such as Kadashan, Trap Bay and Brady Glacier; and

WHEREAS, the tribal members of the Hoonah Indian Association depend on the Tongass National Forest for a variety of customary and traditional uses including subsistence, commercial and sport fishing, recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, other forest lands in the Tongass National Forest have already undergone extensive clear-cut logging and road building, causing harm to the residents of Hoonah; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska manages its lands to produce the most revenue possible; and

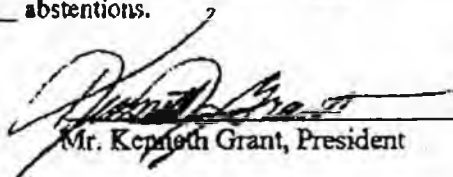
WHEREAS, the University of Alaska currently practices industrial scale clear-cut logging on its forest lands with insufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat and no in-state processing of its logs; and

WHEREAS, for the first time since statehood, the Tongass National Forest is free from the burden of the long-term contracts and the opportunity now exists to create long-term contracts and the opportunity now exists to create long-term jobs for Alaskans through the local manufacture of high value-added wood products; and

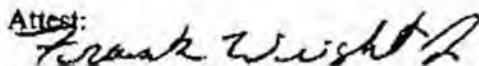
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Hoonah Indian Association, acting in accordance of it's By-laws and Constitution hereby opposes the University of Alaska Lands Bill (S660) and any other attempts to give Tongass National Forest lands to the University of Alaska.

Certification

As President of the Hoonah Indian Association, I hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the association on this 50th day of June, 1997, at which a quorum was present, with a vote of 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.


Mr. Kenneth Grant, President

Date

Attest:

Frank Wright, Jr., Tribal Secretary



Organized Village of Kake

P.O. Box 316

Kake, Alaska 99830-0316

Telephone 907-785-6471

Fax 907-785-4902 / Email ovkgovt@seaknet.alaska.edu

(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)



August 13, 1997

RESOLUTION NO. 97-21 : OVK OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL #S660, UNIVERSITY LANDS BILL

- WHEREAS, the Organized Village of Kake (hereinafter OVK) is a duly constituted Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the authority of the Federal Indian Reorganization Acts of 1934 & 1936 with the IRA Council as the duly elected governing body formed under its Constitution & By-Laws and,
- WHEREAS, OVK functions as a Federal/Tribal non-profit organization to provide services to its membership and, by it's Constitution, includes ... "the protection of the tribal membership"; and,
- WHEREAS, the University Lands Bill (S660) introduced in Congress would transfer at least 250,000 acres of federal lands to the University of Alaska; and,
- WHEREAS, lands open for selection by the University of Alaska include lands from the Tongass National Forest, OVK has passed Resolution No. 93-20 that opposes logging on Kuiu Island, and that resolution could apply to Kupreanof Island; and,
- WHEREAS, OVK members depends on Kupreanof, Kuiu Islands, and other forest lands with the Kake Area for a variety of uses including, and not limited to, subsistence, commercial and sport fishing, bear and whale watching, recreation and tourism; and,
- WHEREAS, the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 set aside lands on Kupreanof and Kuiu Islands as Remote Recreation to offer solitude and self-reliance are high; and,
- WHEREAS, other forest lands on Kupreanof and Kuiu Islands have already undergone extensive clear-cut logging and road building, causing harm to the residents of Kake; and,
- WHEREAS, the University of Alaska manages its lands to produce the most revenue possible; and,
- WHEREAS, the University of Alaska currently practices industrial scale clear-cut logging on its forest lands with insufficient protection of fish and wildlife habitat and no in-state processing of its logs; and,
- WHEREAS, for the first time since statehood, the Tongass National Forest is free from the burden of the log-term contracts and the opportunity now exists to create long-term jobs for Alaskan through the local manufacture of high value-added wood products; and,


OVK RESOLUTION NO 97-21
OVK OPPOSING U.S. SENATE BILL #S660
Page 2 of 2

WHEREAS, Governor Tony Knowles opposes the selection of Tongass National Forest lands by the University of Alaska;

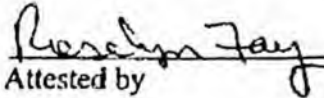
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OVK hereby opposes the University of Alaska Lands Bill (S660) and any other attempts to give Tongass National Forest Lands, including lands on Kupreanof and Kuiu Islands, to the University of Alaska.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly adopted at an IRA Council meeting held this 4th day of September, 1997 by a quorum of 5 (includes president as non-voting chairperson except in case of tie vote) with 4 YES votes, 0 NO votes, and 0 ABSTAINING.



Samuel Jackson, Jr. President



Attested by

Resident and Nonresident Workers by Firm-Alaska 1995
Firms with 20 or More Workers

Employer	Industry	Total Workers	Resident Workers	Nonresiden Workers	Percent Nonresident
VISTA OPTICAL	Retail Trade	54	40	14	25.0
VISTA TRAVEL INC	Trans., Comm., Util.	30	28	2	6.7
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA	Services	56	51	5	8.9
VOORHEES CONCRETE CUTTING SPE	Construction	26	22	4	15.4
VRCA ENVIRONMENTAL SVCS INC	Mining	38	34	4	10.5
W ANCHORAGE VETERINARY CLC INC	Ag., For., and Fishing	22	19	3	13.6
W COAST CONSTRUCTION SVCS	Services	148	126	22	14.9
W COAST STEVEDORING CORP	Trans., Comm., Util.	307	283	24	7.8
W H SMITH	Retail Trade	77	72	5	6.5
W LEE PAYNE DDS PC	Services	20	19	1	5.0
W M DEVELOPMENT CORP	Construction	29	26	3	10.3
WA BOTTING CO/POOLE & KENT JV	Construction	36	26	10	27.8
WA BOTTING CO/POOLE KENT CO JV	Construction	76	72	4	5.3
WA BOTTING CO/POOLE&KENT CO JV	Construction	98	90	9	9.1
WADE & DE YOUNG APC	Services	22	22	0	0.0
WAINWRIGHT CITY OF	Public Administration	34	34	0	0.0
WAINWRIGHT CO-OPERATIVE ASSOC	Retail Trade	29	29	0	0.0
WAL-MART/SAMS CLUB	Retail Trade	2,517	2,008	509	20.2
WALASHEK SHIPYARD INC	Trans., Comm., Util.	43	18	25	58.1
WALDENBOOK CO INC	Retail Trade	134	110	24	17.9
WALES CITY OF	Public Administration	37	35	2	5.4
WALES NATIVE CORP	Finance, Ins. and R.E.	20	18	2	10.0
WALES NATIVE STORE	Retail Trade	23	21	2	8.7
WALMAC INC	Construction	37	28	9	24.3
WALMART VISION CENTER	Retail Trade	26	20	6	23.1
WALSH & CO INC	Construction	21	21	0	0.0
WARBELOWS AIR VENTURES	Trans., Comm., Util.	47	44	3	6.4
WARDS COVE PACKING CO INC	Manufacturing	2,415	505	1,910	79.1
WAREHOUSE DEMO SVCS INC	Services	223	184	39	17.5
WARFIELD AUTO REPAIR	Services	31	26	5	16.1
WARNING LITES OF ALASKA INC	Wholesale Trade	25	22	3	12.0
WASH DAY	Services	25	21	4	16.0
WASH N DRY INC	Services	36	32	4	11.1
WASHINGTON FISH & OYSTER CO	Manufacturing	1,626	373	1,253	77.1
WASILLA AREA SENIORS INC	Services	21	19	2	9.5
WASILLA CHEVRON INC	Retail Trade	29	23	6	20.7
WASILLA CITY OF	Public Administration	91	88	3	3.3
WASILLA DENTAL CENTER INC	Services	29	28	1	3.4
WASSER & WINTERS COMPANY	Manufacturing	117	34	83	70.9
WATERFALL GROUP LTD THE	Services	136	44	92	67.6
WATTERSON CONSTRUCTION INC	Construction	107	98	9	8.4
WAVE THE	Retail Trade	25	21	4	16.0
WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY	Services	106	86	20	18.9
WEATHER DATA SERVICES INC	Services	25	20	5	20.0
WEAVER BROTHERS INC	Trans., Comm., Util.	84	83	1	1.2
WEBCO ALASKA INC	Wholesale Trade	54	48	6	11.1
WEBCO GENERAL PARTNERSHIP	Wholesale Trade	29	20	9	31.0
WEDBUSH MORGAN SECURITIES	Finance, Ins. and R.E.	32	31	1	3.1
WEIDNER INVESTMENT SVCS INC	Finance, Ins. and R.E.	92	82	10	10.9
WEIGHT WATCHERS OF ALASKA INC	Services	62	57	5	8.1
WELASKA CORPORATION	Services	37	33	4	10.8

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

REGIONAL SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PROPERTY

(In Acres)

NOVEMBER 1996

REGION	Fee Simple	Surface Rights Only	Subsurface Rights Only	Harvestable Timber Only	Agriculture Rights Only	Total	Percentage of Total
ALASKA PENINSULA	1,059	121				1,181	0.7%
ANCHORAGE	2,653		868			3,521	2.0%
COPPER BASIN	7,204	137	84			7,425	4.3%
FAIRBANKS	13,561	70	18			13,649	7.9%
GULF	1,928	2,291		15,000		19,219	11.1%
HILLES	14,891					14,891	8.6%
HOMER	4,103	290	2		789	4,395	2.5%
JUNEAU	279	992	34			1,343	0.8%
KENAI	12,152	728				12,880	7.4%
KETCHIKAN	145	2,708	2			2,855	1.6%
MAT-SU	6,607	18				6,626	3.8%
NENANA	13,647	7	10			13,664	7.9%
NORTHERN ALASKA		70				85	0.0%
OUT OF STATE	25					25	0.0%
PETERSBURG	4	982				1,253	0.7%
PRINCE OF WALES		4,549				4,674	2.7%
SALCHA-DELTA	8,902	5	1			8,908	5.1%
SITKA		686				718	0.4%
UA FOUNDATION	1,913					1,916	1.1%
UPPER SUSITNA	14,470	186				14,656	8.5%
WEST FAIRBANKS	8,269	189	1			8,494	4.9%
WESTERN ALASKA		1,521				1,521	0.9%
WHITE MOUNTAIN	19,290	675				19,965	11.5%
WRANGELL	9,121	340				9,461	5.5%
TOTAL	140,223	16,565	1,020	15,000	789	173,326	100.0%
Trust Land	136,904	16,565	1,020	15,000	789	170,004	98.1%
Foundation Land	1,913					1,916	1.1%
Other University Land	1,406	20				1,406	0.8%
TOTAL	140,223	16,585	1,020	15,000	789	173,326	100.0%

*Some columns do not add correctly due to rounding



University of Alaska clearcut near Cape Yakataga, 1996



University of Alaska clearcut on Slide Ridge near Ketchikan



University of Alaska clearcut near Cape Yakataga, 1996

COMMENTARY

Land grant would help UA fill educational needs

By Jerome B. Komisar

The following is excerpted from University of Alaska President Jerome B. Komisar's presentation to U.S. Senate Energy and Resources Committee of the university's views in support of S.660, which would grant federal public lands to the university, fulfilling earlier commitments made to it by Congress. Komisar testified Sept. 11 before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C.

The University of Alaska is Alaska's only public land grant university. In 1915 and 1929, Congress made federal land grants totaling close to 370,000 acres to the state for the exclusive use and benefit of the university.

For a number of reasons, the university has received less than a third of the acreage allocated to it under these grants. The failure to transfer the total allotment was due to the incompleteness of the federal government's study of the region.

Before they could be conveyed, the lands had to be surveyed. As of 1915, only a fraction of 1 percent of Alaska had been surveyed, virtually none of it in the Tanana Valley where the granted lands were located. As late as 1952, a mere 0.6 percent of the entire Territory of Alaska had been surveyed. In the early 1950s, predictions about how long it would take to survey Alaska at current federal speed varied between 12,000 and 43,510 years.

The result is that of all the states that have received land grants, only Delaware received less than Alaska. And given the size of Alaska, no other state, by far, received a smaller portion of total state acreage for the support of higher learning.

This obvious inequity is impossible to rationalize: first, Alaska's vast size makes it eminently possible to devote significant acreage to the support of higher education and greater learning — Alaska does not have a land shortage, at least not in public lands; while, second, Alaska's vast distances, its harsh climactic conditions, and the remote locations of many of its cities and villages create prohibitive costs unknown in the rest of the country, which makes a grant of land exemplary public policy.

If there is any section of our nation where educational land grants are justified and necessary, it is in the great

land of Alaska.

The University of Alaska is a statewide system which consists of three multimission universities located in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau with extended satellite colleges and centers, including more than dozens of extension and research sites.

Not surprisingly, the need for higher education is most difficult to serve in the rural and remote areas of the state where vast distances separate cities and villages, where air travel is the only means of transportation, where the cost of communications — telephone, television, electronic networks — can be exorbitant.

A sufficient land grant would enable the university to plan and provide more effectively the educational and cultural services needed throughout the enormous Alaska terrain and permit the massive size of the land to provide economic benefits as well as cause financial cost.

Additional land also will enable the university to further the application of exemplary ways of extracting and managing natural resources. It will permit economic development projects and land utilization that balance environmental protection with social progress.

The income earned will further the university's research in those disciplines in which it has exceptional depth and opportunity: geophysics and climate change, oceanography and fisheries; the clean use of fossil fuels; arctic biology and arctic engineering; and the economic and social dynamics of the circumpolar north.

S.660 also envisions that the university will convey to the National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service thousands of acres of university lands that are now inholdings in or adjacent to parks and refuges created or expanded by the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. These inholdings would be relinquished to the United States.

Thus, the proposed legislation, in addition to making the university whole, would have the added benefit of enhancing the conservation and management of Alaska's vast parks, refuges and wilderness areas.

By providing the University of Alaska with a land grant which is both more consistent with what was originally intended and commensurate with the state's size and character, this legislation will permit the University of Alaska to carry out its singular responsibility as a unique and major national center for culture, for learning, and for opportunity in the great far north.



The result is that of all the states that have received land grants, only Delaware received less than Alaska.

It will permit economic development projects and land utilization that balance environmental protection with social progress.

ck debate

Management Council it is worth noting that reign ownership pub- l by various parties in the \$1 billion Bering and poorly-placed

3 million-metric-ton ore processors, while ore factory trawlers. unity development , 1998. The fishery hether to consider a tion or limit its pos- slocation for another

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for supporters of the about the legendary ly disguised jabs at foods, which domi- the Bering Sea.

cially and ethnically ska Journal of Com- d look at the real and in this debate before ore allocation of the

TO THE EDITOR

Alaska regents for seeking a larger land grant to support the university, 250,000 federal acres.

Ordinance of 1785 specified that land west of Ohio be surveyed into townships composed of 36 sections of 640 acres. Every Section 16 would be set aside for "maintenance of public schools."

The 1842 Morrill Act dedicated land to states for "agriculture and mechanic arts" based on population with 30,000 acres per member of Congress. In 1848, the 1785 Ordinance was amended to double the section grant to two—Sections 16 and 36. Three of the last four states admitted to the Union—Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona—each received four. Under that formula, Alaska's grant for public schools would exceed 40 million acres.

Alaska never received title to specific sections because the territory was unsurveyed. So in the 1950s, Congress rejected section grants and substituted quantity grants for Alaska. That meant 100 million acres of a general grant plus specific acreage for prisons, schools, asylums, pioneers homes, and 500,000 acres for the university and 500,000 acres for a teachers college.

In the final Statehood Act in 1958, all were rolled into a single land grant to Alaska. The Statehood Act also canceled all unsurveyed land grants. That reduced the university's federal land grant from 360,000 acres it had received under earlier legislation, to 112,000 acres.

We urge Alaskans to read Senate Bill 660. When he introduced it, Sen. Murkowski stated

that most of the land selected "would stem from the 70 million acres of uncommitted land currently under control of the Bureau of Land Management." Restrictions, a system of public hearings and required approval by the Secretary of Interior adequately protects lands with which SEACC is concerned.

It offers a chance for the state to join in a land grant by matching up to 250,000 acres with another 250,000 federal acres.

Remember, the university belongs to all Alaskans. Regents seek to assure a system of higher education in the next millennium adequately funded to do the job.

Sincerely,
Lew M. Williams Jr.
UA regent
Ketchikan

Land grant

Sept. 4, 1997

To the editor:

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council inaccurately criticizes this writer, Sen. Frank Murkowski and the University of

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S.660

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes. (Reported in the Senate)

Calendar No. 208

105th CONGRESS

1st Session

S. 660

[Report No. 105-106]

A BILL

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes.

October 9, 1997

Reported with an amendment

S 660 RS

Calendar No. 208

105th CONGRESS

1st Session

S. 660

[Report No. 105-106]

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS- The Congress finds that--

(1) that the University of Alaska is the successor to and the beneficiary of all Federal grants and conveyances to or for the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines;

(2) under the Acts of March 4, 1915, 38 Stat. 1214, and January 21, 1929, 45 Stat. 1091, the United States granted to the Territory of Alaska certain Federal land for the University of Alaska;

(3) the Territory was unable to receive most of the land intended to be conveyed by the Act of March 4, 1915, before repeal of that Act by section 6(k) of the Alaska Statehood Act (Public Law 85-508, 72 Stat. 339);

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S.660

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes. (Reported in the Senate)

(4) only one other State land grant college in the United States has obtained a smaller land grant from the Federal Government than the University of Alaska has received, and all land grant colleges in the Western States of the United States have obtained substantially larger land grants than the University of Alaska;

(5) an academically strong and financially secure state university system is a cornerstone to the long-term development of a stable population and to a healthy, diverse economy and is in the national interest;

(6) the national interest is served by transferring certain Federal lands to the University of Alaska which will be able to use and develop the resources of such lands and by returning certain lands held by the University of Alaska located within certain Federal conservation system units to Federal ownership;

(7) the University of Alaska holds valid legal title to and is responsible for management of lands transferred by the United States to the Territory and State of Alaska for the University and that an exchange of lands is consistent with and in furtherance of the purposes and terms of, and thus not in violation of, the Federal grant of such lands.

(b) *PURPOSES-* The purposes of this Act are--

(1) to fulfill the original commitment of Congress to establish the University of Alaska as a land grant university with holdings sufficient to facilitate operation and maintenance of a university system for the inhabitants of the State of Alaska; and

(2) to acquire from the University of Alaska lands it holds within Federal parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas.

SEC. 2. PRIMARY FEDERAL GRANT.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, but subject to valid existing rights and the procedures set forth herein, the University is granted and entitled to take up to 250,000 acres of Federal lands (or reserved interests in lands) in or adjacent to Alaska as a Federal grant. The University may identify and select the specific lands it intends to take pursuant to this grant, and the Secretary of the Interior ('Secretary') shall promptly convey to the University the lands selected, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(b)(1) Within 48 months of enactment of this Act, the University of Alaska may submit to the

Secretary a list of properties the University has tentatively selected to receive under the conditions of this grant. Such list may be submitted in whole or in part during this period and the University may make interim tentative selections that it may relinquish or change within the 48-month period. The University may submit tentative selections that exceed the amount of the grant except that such selections shall not exceed 275,000 acres at any one time.

(2) All selections shall be in reasonably compact units: Provided, That the University may select small tracts of Federal land within Federal reservations consistent with the limitations in subsection (c) below.

(3) The University may submit tentative selections of Federal lands validly selected but not conveyed to the State of Alaska or the corporations organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act: Provided, That such lands may not be approved or conveyed to the University unless the State of Alaska and or the corporation has relinquished its prior selection.

(4) The University shall make no selections within Conservation System Units as defined in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3. 21) or lands designated as LUD II by section 201 of the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990.

(5) Within forty-five (45) days of receipt of a University tentative selection, the Secretary shall publish notice of said selection in the Federal Register. Such notice shall identify lands included in the tentative selection and provide for a period for public comment on the tentative selection not to exceed sixty (60) days.

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S.660

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes. (Reported in the Senate)

(6) Within six months of the receipt of a University tentative selection, the Secretary shall notify the University of his acceptance or objection to each tentative selection, including the reasons for any objection. Failure to object within six months shall constitute approval by the Secretary. Any public comments submitted in response to a public notice issued pursuant to paragraph (5) above may be considered by the Secretary: Provided, That the Secretary may object to tentative selections of the University if and only if he demonstrates that a conveyance of such to the University--

(A) will have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which a Conservation System Unit was established; or

(B) will have a significant adverse impact on fulfillment of the Alaska Statehood Act or the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601).

(7) The Secretary's acceptance of, or objection to, any tentative selections submitted by the University of Alaska pursuant to section 2 of this Act or the conveyance of any such selections by tentative approval, patent or other instrument are not major Federal actions within the means of section 102(2)(c) of Public Law 91-190.

(8) The Secretary shall publish notice of any decision to accept or object to a tentative selection in the Federal Register.

(c) The Secretary shall not approve or convey, under this grant--

(1) any Federal lands which, at the time of enactment of this Act, are included in a Conservation System Unit, or are designated as LUD II by section 201 of the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990;

(2) any Federal lands validly selected or top filed pursuant to section 906(e) of

Public Law 96-487 but not conveyed to the State of Alaska or the corporations pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; or

(3) any Federal lands withdrawn and actually used in connection with the administration of any Federal installations and military reservations unless the head of the land holding or occupying agency or entity agrees.

(d) If, following the Secretary's review of tentative selections by the University, the amount of

acreage approved by the Secretary for conveyance is less than the full primary grant, the University may select additional lands to satisfy the primary grant.

(e) Upon the University's tentative selection of land:

(1) Such land shall be segregated and unavailable for selection by and conveyance to the State of Alaska or any corporation organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and shall not be otherwise encumbered or disposed of by the United States pending completion of the selection process.

(2) The University shall possess the nonexclusive right to enter onto such lands for the purpose of--

(A) assessing the oil, gas, mineral, and other resource potential therein. The University, and its delegates or agents, shall be permitted to engage in assessment techniques including but not limited to core drilling to assess the metalliferous or other values, and surface geological exploration and seismic exploration for oil and gas: Provided, That this paragraph shall not be construed as including or allowing exploratory drilling of oil and gas wells; and

(B) exercising due diligence regarding the making of a final selection.

(f) Within one year of the Secretary's approval of a tentative selection, the University may make therefrom a final selection pursuant to this Act. Within six months of such final selection by the University, the Secretary shall issue a tentative approval of such final selection. Such tentative approval shall be deemed to transfer to the University all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the described selection. Any lakes, rivers and streams contained within such selections shall be meandered and lands submerged thereunder conveyed in accordance with 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1631, as amended. Upon completion of a survey of lands included within such tentative approval, the Secretary shall promptly issue a patent to such lands. Pending issuance of a patent, the University shall have rights and authorities over tentatively approval lands consistent with those under the Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, including the right to transfer, assign, exchange, grant, deed, lease or otherwise convey any or all present or future interest in the lands granted pursuant to this Act.

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S.660

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes. (Reported in the Senate)

(g) The Secretary of Agriculture, as well as the heads of other Federal agencies, shall take such actions as may be necessary to facilitate and expedite the implementation of this Act by the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. RELINQUISHMENT OF CERTAIN UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA HOLDINGS.

(a) As a condition to receiving the land grant provided by section 2 of this Act, the University of Alaska shall convey to the Secretary those lands listed in 'The University of Alaska's Inholding Reconveyance Document' and dated April 24, 1997.

(b) The University shall begin conveyance of the lands listed in (a) above upon taking title to lands it has selected pursuant to section 2 of this Act and shall convey to the Secretary a percentage amount of land proportional to that which it has received, but in no event shall it be required to convey any lands other than those listed in (a) above to the Secretary. The Secretary shall accept quitclaim deeds from the University for these lands.

SEC. 4. ALIENATION OF LANDS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the University of Alaska may transfer, assign, exchange, grant, deed, lease or otherwise convey any or all present or future interests in the lands granted pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 5. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

The University of Alaska has the right to bring action for, including but not limited to, relief in the nature of mandamus, against the Secretary for violation of this Act or for review of an agency decision under this Act. Such an action can only be brought in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska and within two (2) years of the alleged violation or the final decisionmaking. For all other entities or persons, decisions of the Secretary shall be final and conclusive.

SEC. 6. STATE MATCHING GRANT.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, but subject to valid existing rights and the procedures set forth in this Act, the University is granted and shall be entitled to take, in addition to the primary grant provided for in section 2 herein, up to another 250,000 acres in Federal

lands (or reserved interests in lands) in or adjacent to Alaska: Provided, That any additional acres are granted, as specified below, on a matching acre-for-acre basis to the extent that the State of Alaska shall first grant to the University State-owned land in Alaska.

(b) The University may select and the Secretary shall convey lands which the University is entitled to receive pursuant to this State matching grant provision in minimum increments of 25,000 acres up to the maximum of 250,000 acres.

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Alaska State Legislature

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PETER KELLY

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Juneau, Alaska
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House District 31

House Of Representatives

Sponsor Statement

HJR 53

HJR 53 lends support to US Senate Bill S660. Senate Bill 660 provides for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska.

Supporting S660 helps complete the land grant to the University of Alaska. It will greatly assist the continuation of higher education in Alaska.

This Bill places the Legislature on the record supporting the commitment to the University of Alaska as a land grant university.

HJR

53

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SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

4/22/98

DATE: 3/18/98

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 4/22/98

Finance Committee considered

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

Relating to support for federal legislation providing for the continuation of the University of Alaska by the conveyance of federal land to the university.

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS HJR 53 _____ (_____)
- 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>Rep. E. ...</i>					
<i>Sen. ...</i>	X				
<i>...</i>	X				
<i>... only</i>	X				
Co-Chair: <i>...</i>	✓	Co-Chair:			
Co-Chair: <i>...</i>	✓	Co-Chair:			

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department Date Zero Fiscal

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department Date Zero Fiscal

University	4/18/98	✓	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

FISCAL NOTE

No: 1
 4/22/98
 Bill Version: HJR 53
 (H) Publish Date: 2/20/98

STATE OF ALASKA
 1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Relating to support for federal legislation providing for the
continuation of the U. of A. by the conveyance of federal land...
 Sponsor: Kelly
 Requester: _____

Dept. Affected University
 BRU _____
 Component Statewide administration
 Component Serial No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES []						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1091 Designated Program Receipts						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by *Mark Hanley*
 Rep. Mark Hanley, Co-Chair
Gene Therrault
 Rep. Gene Therrault, Co-Chair

Phone 465-4939
 Phone 465-4797
 Date 2/18/98

COMMITTEE COPY

Alaska State Legislature

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This Bill places the Legislature on the record supporting the commitment to the University of Alaska as a land grant university.

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S.660

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes. (Reported in the Senate)

Calendar No. 208

105th CONGRESS

1st Session

S. 660

[Report No. 105-106]

A BILL

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes.

October 9, 1997

Reported with an amendment

S 660 RS

Calendar No. 208

105th CONGRESS

1st Session

S. 660

[Report No. 105-106]

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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S.660

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes. (Reported in the Senate)

(4) only one other State land grant college in the United States has obtained a smaller land grant from the Federal Government than the University of Alaska has received, and all land grant colleges in the Western States of the United States have obtained substantially larger land grants than the University of Alaska;

(5) an academically strong and financially secure state university system is a cornerstone to the long-term development of a stable population and to a healthy, diverse economy and is in the national interest;

(6) the national interest is served by transferring certain Federal lands to the University of Alaska which will be able to use and develop the resources of such lands and by returning certain lands held by the University of Alaska located within certain Federal conservation system units to Federal ownership;

(7) the University of Alaska holds valid legal title to and is responsible for management of lands transferred by the United States to the Territory and State of Alaska for the University and that an exchange of lands is consistent with and in furtherance of the purposes and terms of, and thus not in violation of, the Federal grant of such lands.

(b) PURPOSES- The purposes of this Act are--

(1) to fulfill the original commitment of Congress to establish the University of Alaska as a land grant university with holdings sufficient to facilitate operation and maintenance of a university system for the inhabitants of the State of Alaska; and

(2) to acquire from the University of Alaska lands it holds within Federal parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas.

SEC. 2. PRIMARY FEDERAL GRANT.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, but subject to valid existing rights and the procedures set forth herein, the University is granted and entitled to take up to 250,000 acres of Federal lands (or reserved interests in lands) in or adjacent to Alaska as a Federal grant. The University may identify and select the specific lands it intends to take pursuant to this grant, and the Secretary of the Interior ('Secretary') shall promptly convey to the University the lands selected, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(b)(1) Within 48 months of enactment of this Act, the University of Alaska may submit to the

Secretary a list of properties the University has tentatively selected to receive under the conditions of this grant. Such list may be submitted in whole or in part during this period and the University may make interim tentative selections that it may relinquish or change within the 48-month period. The University may submit tentative selections that exceed the amount of the grant except that such selections shall not exceed 275,000 acres at any one time.

(2) All selections shall be in reasonably compact units: Provided, That the University may select small tracts of Federal land within Federal reservations consistent with the limitations in subsection (c) below.

(3) The University may submit tentative selections of Federal lands validly selected but not conveyed to the State of Alaska or the corporations organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act: Provided, That such lands may not be approved or conveyed to the University unless the State of Alaska and or the corporation has relinquished its prior selection.

(4) The University shall make no selections within Conservation System Units as defined in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101) or lands designated as LUD II by section 201 of the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990.

(5) Within forty-five (45) days of receipt of a University tentative selection, the Secretary shall publish notice of said selection in the Federal Register. Such notice shall identify lands included in the tentative selection and provide for a period for public comment on the tentative selection not to exceed sixty (60) days.

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S.660

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes. (Reported in the Senate)

(6) Within six months of the receipt of a University tentative selection, the Secretary shall notify the University of his acceptance or objection to each tentative selection, including the reasons for any objection. Failure to object within six months shall constitute approval by the Secretary. Any public comments submitted in response to a public notice issued pursuant to paragraph (5) above may be considered by the Secretary: Provided, That the Secretary may object to tentative selections of the University if and only if he demonstrates that a conveyance of such to the University--

(A) will have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which a Conservation System Unit was established; or

(B) will have a significant adverse impact on fulfillment of the Alaska Statehood Act or the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601).

(7) The Secretary's acceptance of, or objection to, any tentative selections submitted by the University of Alaska pursuant to section 2 of this Act or the conveyance of any such selections by tentative approval, patent or other instrument are not major Federal actions within the means of section 102(2)(c) of Public Law 91-190.

(8) The Secretary shall publish notice of any decision to accept or object to a tentative selection in the Federal Register.

(c) The Secretary shall not approve or convey, under this grant--

(1) any Federal lands which, at the time of enactment of this Act, are included in a Conservation System Unit, or are designated as LUD II by section 201 of the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990;

(2) any Federal lands validly selected or top filed pursuant to section 906(e) of

Public Law 96-487 but not conveyed to the State of Alaska or the corporations pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; or

(3) any Federal lands withdrawn and actually used in connection with the administration of any Federal installations and military reservations unless the head of the land holding or occupying agency or entity agrees.

(d) If, following the Secretary's review of tentative selections by the University, the amount of

acreage approved by the Secretary for conveyance is less than the full primary grant, the University may select additional lands to satisfy the primary grant.

(e) Upon the University's tentative selection of land:

(1) Such land shall be segregated and unavailable for selection by and conveyance to the State of Alaska or any corporation organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and shall not be otherwise encumbered or disposed of by the United States pending completion of the selection process.

(2) The University shall possess the nonexclusive right to enter onto such lands for the purpose of--

(A) assessing the oil, gas, mineral, and other resource potential therein. The University, and its delegates or agents, shall be permitted to engage in assessment techniques including but not limited to core drilling to assess the metalliferous or other values, and surface geological exploration and seismic exploration for oil and gas; Provided, That this paragraph shall not be construed as including or allowing exploratory drilling of oil and gas wells; and

(B) exercising due diligence regarding the making of a final selection.

(f) Within one year of the Secretary's approval of a tentative selection, the University may make therefrom a final selection pursuant to this Act. Within six months of such final selection by the University, the Secretary shall issue a tentative approval of such final selection. Such tentative approval shall be deemed to transfer to the University all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the described selection. Any lakes, rivers and streams contained within such selections shall be meandered and lands submerged thereunder conveyed in accordance with 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1631, as amended. Upon completion of a survey of lands included within such tentative approval, the Secretary shall promptly issue a patent to such lands. Pending issuance of a patent, the University shall have rights and authorities over tentatively approval lands consistent with those under the Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, including the right to transfer, assign, exchange, grant, deed, lease or otherwise convey any or all present or future interest in the lands granted pursuant to this Act.

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S.660

To provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes. (Reported in the Senate)

(g) The Secretary of Agriculture, as well as the heads of other Federal agencies, shall take such actions as may be necessary to facilitate and expedite the implementation of this Act by the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. RELINQUISHMENT OF CERTAIN UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA HOLDINGS.

(a) As a condition to receiving the land grant provided by section 2 of this Act, the University of Alaska shall convey to the Secretary those lands listed in 'The University of Alaska's Inholding Reconveyance Document' and dated April 24, 1997.

(b) The University shall begin conveyance of the lands listed in (a) above upon taking title to lands it has selected pursuant to section 2 of this Act and shall convey to the Secretary a percentage amount of land proportional to that which it has received, but in no event shall it be required to convey any lands other than those listed in (a) above to the Secretary. The Secretary shall accept quitclaim deeds from the University for these lands.

SEC. 4. ALIENATION OF LANDS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the University of Alaska may transfer, assign, exchange, grant, deed, lease or otherwise convey any or all present or future interests in the lands granted pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 5. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

The University of Alaska has the right to bring action for, including but not limited to, relief in the nature of mandamus, against the Secretary for violation of this Act or for review of an agency decision under this Act. Such an action can only be brought in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska and within two (2) years of the alleged violation or the final decisionmaking. For all other entities or persons, decisions of the Secretary shall be final and conclusive.

SEC. 6. STATE MATCHING GRANT.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, but subject to valid existing rights and the procedures set forth in this Act, the University is granted and shall be entitled to take, in addition to the primary grant provided for in section 2 herein, up to another 250,000 acres in Federal

lands (or reserved interests in lands) in or adjacent to Alaska: Provided, That any additional acres are granted, as specified below, on a matching acre-for-acre basis to the extent that the State of Alaska shall first grant to the University State-owned land in Alaska.

(b) The University may select and the Secretary shall convey lands which the University is entitled to receive pursuant to this State matching grant provision in minimum increments of 25,000 acres up to the maximum of 250,000 acres.

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TO THE EDITOR

Alaska regents for seeking a larger land grant to support the university, 250,000 federal acres.

Ordinance of 1785 specified that land west of Ohio be surveyed into townships composed of 36 sections of 640 acres. Every Section 16 would be set aside for "maintenance of public schools."

The 1842 Morrill Act dedicated land to states for "agriculture and mechanic arts" based on population with 30,000 acres per member of Congress. In 1848, the 1785 Ordinance was amended to double the section grant to two—Sections 16 and 36. Three of the last four states admitted to the Union—Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona—each received four. Under that formula, Alaska's grant for public schools would exceed 40 million acres.

Alaska never received title to specific sections because the territory was unsurveyed. So in the 1950s, Congress rejected section grants and substituted quantity grants for Alaska. That meant 150 million acres of a general grant plus specific acreage for prisons, schools, asylums, pioneers homes, and 500,000 acres for the university and 500,000 acres for a teachers college.

In the final Statehood Act in 1958, all were rolled into a single land grant to Alaska. The Statehood Act also canceled all unsurveyed land grants. That reduced the university's federal land grant from 360,000 acres it had received under earlier legislation, to 112,000 acres.

We urge Alaskans to read Senate Bill 660. When he introduced it, Sen. Murkowski stated

that most of the land selected "would stem from the 70 million acres of uncommitted land currently under control of the Bureau of Land Management." Restrictions, a system of public hearings and required approval by the Secretary of Interior adequately protects lands with which SEACC is concerned.

It offers a chance for the state to join in a land grant by matching up to 250,000 acres with another 250,000 federal acres.

Remember, the university belongs to all Alaskans. Regents seek to assure a system of higher education in the next millennium adequately funded to do the job.

Sincerely,
Lew M. Williams Jr.
UA regent
Ketchikan

Land grant

Sept. 4, 1997

To the editor:

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council inaccurately criticizes this writer, Sen. Frank Murkowski and the University of

COMMENTARY

Land grant would help UA fill educational needs

By Jerome B. Komisar

The following is excerpted from University of Alaska President Jerome B. Komisar's presentation to U.S. Senate Energy and Resources Committee of the university's views in support of S.660, which would grant federal public lands to the university, fulfilling earlier commitments made to it by Congress. Komisar testified Sept. 11 before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Washington, D.C.

The University of Alaska is Alaska's only public land grant university. In 1915 and 1929, Congress made federal land grants totaling close to 370,000 acres to the state for the exclusive use and benefit of the university.

For a number of reasons, the university has received less than a third of the acreage allocated to it under these grants. The failure to transfer the total allotment was due to the incompleteness of the federal government's study of the region.

Before they could be conveyed, the lands had to be surveyed. As of 1915, only a fraction of 1 percent of Alaska had been surveyed, virtually none of it in the Tanana Valley where the granted lands were located. As late as 1952, a mere 0.6 percent of the entire Territory of Alaska had been surveyed. In the early 1950s, predictions about how long it would take to survey Alaska at current federal speed varied between 12,000 and 43,510 years.

The result is that of all the states that have received land grants, only Delaware received less than Alaska. And given the size of Alaska, no other state, by far, received a smaller portion of total state acreage for the support of higher learning.

This obvious inequity is impossible to rationalize: first, Alaska's vast size makes it eminently possible to devote significant acreage to the support of higher education and greater learning — Alaska does not have a land shortage, at least not in public lands; while, second, Alaska's vast distances, its harsh climactic conditions, and the remote locations of many of its cities and villages create prohibitive costs unknown in the rest of the country, which makes a grant of land exemplary public policy.

If there is any section of our nation where educational land grants are justified and necessary, it is in the great

land of Alaska.

The University of Alaska is a statewide system which consists of three multimission universities located in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau with extended satellite colleges and centers, including more than dozens of extension and research sites.

Not surprisingly, the need for higher education is most difficult to serve in the rural and remote areas of the state where vast distances separate cities and villages, where air travel is the only means of transportation, where the cost of communications — telephone, television, electronic networks — can be exorbitant.

A sufficient land grant would enable the university to plan and provide more effectively the educational and cultural services needed throughout the enormous Alaska terrain and permit the massive size of the land to provide economic benefits as well as cause financial cost.

Additional land also will enable the university to further the application of exemplary ways of extracting and managing natural resources. It will permit economic development projects and land utilization that balance environmental protection with social progress.

The income earned will further the university's research in those disciplines in which it has exceptional depth and opportunity: geophysics and climate change, oceanography and fisheries; the clean use of fossil fuels; arctic biology and arctic engineering; and the economic and social dynamics of the circumpolar north.

S.660 also envisions that the university will convey to the National Park Service and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service thousands of acres of university lands that are now inholdings in or adjacent to parks and refuges created or expanded by the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. These inholdings would be relinquished to the United States.

Thus, the proposed legislation, in addition to making the university whole, would have the added benefit of enhancing the conservation and management of Alaska's vast parks, refuges and wilderness areas.

By providing the University of Alaska with a land grant which is both more consistent with what was originally intended and commensurate with the state's size and character, this legislation will permit the University of Alaska to carry out its singular responsibility as a unique and major national center for culture, for learning, and for opportunity in the great far north.



The result is that of all the states that have received land grants, only Delaware received less than Alaska.

It will permit economic development projects and land utilization that balance environmental protection with social progress.

debate

agement Council worth noting that ownership publication various parties in \$1 billion Bering poorly-placed. million-metric-ton processors, while : factory trawlers. nity development 998. The fishery er to consider a n or limit its position for another

pendent identity wledge that many ces Outside. As a lly diverse in the d California and

sive for partisan ial drama to at- ashing the foreign ppen to oppose

and political fight : Bering Sea to rot ting the onshore their parent com- processors that do stablished them- U.S. government since then, these he best corporate idly, some of the ith this anti-Japa-

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