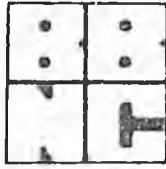


ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2001-2002 00/2

10403 HOUSE RESOURCES

238



Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Enriching Our Native Way of Life

800 Cordova Street, Suite 200 / Anchorage, Alaska 99501-6299 / (907) 278-3602 / fax (907) 276-3924

June 20, 2000

Gus Panos, Chair
Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

**Subject: BBNC's Support for the AGDC's Alaska Digital
Orthoimagery Initiative**

Dear Mr. Panos:

Thank you for the opportunity to partner with the broad spectrum of private and public sector representatives who recognize that Alaska is being left out of the national mapping system. Our current maps are based on Korean War era data, don't meet national standards, and are increasingly inadequate for resource management decision-making.

Alaska's statewide aerial photo base, which is also dated, contains many coverage-holidays that could be remedied by utilizing current technology. Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) commends the broad-based Alaska Geographic Data Committee for recognizing these problems and crafting the specifications for a solution.

Since 1992, BBNC has been constructing AutoCAD base maps for each of our 29 Bristol Bay villages. We identified 3 "Phases" in this effort: Phase I shows the topography around a particular village and the respective ANCSA village corporation's land selections and conveyances; Phase II incorporates the third-party inholdings (e.g., Native allotments, town sites, and ANCSA 14(c) reconveyances); and Phase III assimilates Phases I and II into a geographical information system (GIS).

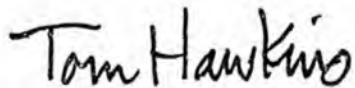
All 29 of our villages have completed Phase II, and 8 have (or soon will have) completed Phase III. We believe that, if and when it becomes available, orthoimagery should make a valuable addition to our GIS's. Though ANCSA corporations were chartered to be for-profit corporations,

Gus Panos, AGDC
Page 2

most of them have been trying to strike a balance between profitable natural-resource management and cultural resource preservation (including subsistence). New and improved orthoimagery data should help immensely with these dual efforts.

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the matter. If you have any questions, please call me at 265-7831.

Sincerely,



Tom Hawkins
Sr. Vice-President & COO



NANA Regional Corporation

P.O. BOX 49 / KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752 / (907) 442-3301 / FAX (907) 442-2866

INUPIAT ILITQUSIAT

February 26, 2001

*With guidance and support
from Elders, I teach my
children these Inupiaq Values:*

Mr. Gust Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West 7th Avenue, Suite #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Respect for Elders

Knowledge of Language

Dear Mr. Panos:

Love for Children

Knowledge of Family Tree

The NANA Regional Corporation would like to lend its support and endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. Having current and reliable geographic information is very important for infrastructure development for the 11 villages in the NANA region and to carry out natural resource management throughout the Northwest Arctic region.

Respect for Others

Responsibility to Tribe

Respect for Nature

Having new digital orthoimagery would greatly enhance our Geographic Information System and provide critical updates to U.S. Geographic topographic maps that are over forty years old and statewide aerial photography, which is twenty years old. We need to have accurate base maps to effectively manage our lands.

Hunter Success

Domestic Skills

Family Roles

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit this letter in support of the committee and the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative.

Sharing

Cooperation

Sincerely,

Humility

Charlie A. Curtis
President and CEO

Avoid Conflict

Hard Work

Humor

Spirituality



June 22, 2000

APSC Ltr No. 00-15932

Gust C. Panos
Chair, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Ave, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

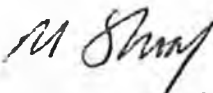
Dear Mr. Panos,

The Alyeska Pipeline Service Company would like to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The availability of current, reliable geographic information would enhance our management of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and our Oil Spill Contingency Plan. While we do not currently employ Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to gather, display and analyze information, we recognize its importance as a planning, analysis and communication tool. We consider accurate orthoimagery and digital elevation data to be the foundation layers necessary for us to fully utilize GIS.

Alaska's U.S. Geological topographic maps are over forty years old with no plan to update or replace them. Further, these maps are not orthoreferenced making them difficult to incorporate with today's precision data gathered using GPS. The existence of accurate, common base layers that data can be extracted from and registered to is critical to the success of any GIS system. We believe the updated data provided by the Digital Orthoimagery Initiative will significantly improve the reliability of geographic information essential to the management of both public and private assets along the TransAlaska Pipeline.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) is commended for its outreach efforts in fostering partnerships and determining common needs among the private sector, Native Corporations, and local, state and federal agencies. We believe the Initiative is of great value to the State of Alaska and its citizens and we provide it our full endorsement.

Respectfully,



Robert I. Shoaf
Vice President
JPO Relations



PHILLIPS Alaska, Inc.
A Subsidiary of PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

P.O. BOX 100360
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-0360

June 8, 2000

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
Bureau of Land Management
U. S. Department of the Interior
222 West Seventh Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Subject: Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative

Dear Mr. Panos:

On behalf of Phillips Alaska, Inc., I am please to add my endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. We believe the proposed product developed by the Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) would be of significant benefit to the residents and industry within Alaska.

We are actively involved in the exploration and development of oil and gas resources within the Alaska North Slope and Cook Inlet regions. To achieve our objective in a cost effective and environmentally sensitive manner, we depend upon access to accurate and up-to-date topographic, hydrological and land usage maps. Because of the size and remoteness of Alaska, it is currently not possible to refer to publicly available maps covering the entire state in the detail we would prefer. The proposed project would certainly assist in our business of responsible, resource development upon which the State and residents depend.

Phillips Alaska, Inc. fully supports the efforts of AGDC to secure the federal funding necessary for the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. We look forward to the approval of this project.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Richter
Vice President
Exploration and Land



BP EXPLORATION

BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.
900 East Benson Boulevard
P.O. Box 17861
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6812
(907) 561-5111

May 22, 2000

Gust Panos, Chairman
Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
4230 University Drive, Suite 230
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Mr. Panos:

I am pleased to add my endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. As you know, BPXA is engaged in the business of responsible exploration and development of Alaska's North Slope oil and gas resources. In this context, we are constantly in need of the most accurate mapping data available to provide the basis for ongoing exploration and development decisions (e.g. drillpads, ice roads, pipelines, etc.). Existing orthoimagery on the North Slope is generally of poor quality, out-of-date, and does not meet national map accuracy standards. Our understanding is that the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative would help resolve this situation by providing new statewide high-resolution digital satellite imagery in full compliance with the national map accuracy standards.

I applaud and strongly support efforts by the Alaska Geographic Data Committee to secure the federal funding necessary for the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative to complete a new comprehensive statewide digital orthoimagery data base that can be used and relied upon by both public and private interests.

Sincerely yours,

F.X. O'Keefe
Business Unit Leader,
Alaska Exploration



May 24, 2000

Gust Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos,

URS Corporation's Alaska office would like to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The use of current and reliable geographic information has become an important part of our business operations. We consider orthoimagery to be a foundation layer in the framework of geographic information necessary for the utilization of geographic information system analyses.

Alaska's United States Geological Topographic maps are forty years old and statewide aerial photography is variable in age. These two major sources of base geographic information do not adequately represent the changing landscape in Alaska. New digital orthoimagery would go far in alleviating the critical shortage of current and reliable geographic information in Alaska.

The Alaska Geographic Committee's Initiative will help the private sector, Native communities, and local, state, and federal agencies. We believe the Initiative is of great value and provide it our full endorsement.

Sincerely,

Joyce Bowers
Biologist

AEROMAP U.S.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAMMETRIC CONSULTANTS



May 22, 2000

Mr. Gust Panos
Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee Chairperson
AGDC
Room 230
University Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Mr. Panos:

We at AeroMap would like to express our genuine support for the Alaska Digital Orthoimage Initiative. AeroMap U.S. is a private mapping firm in Alaska with a 40-year history of service to Federal, State, and Municipal agencies as well as private surveyors, engineers and planners working to build new infrastructure in Alaska. In addition, our clients include large and small mining companies, oil and gas developers, and land and timber managers all across the state.

AeroMap uses USGS quad maps for planning to make new maps of higher resolution and accuracy. We have relied upon the 1:63,360 15-minute quadrangle series maps since we began business 40 years ago. Though they have served us well, these maps are seriously outdated. In some locations, it becomes very challenging to locate oneself on a map due to changes that have occurred, yet we must plan new photography missions and new mapping based upon this "best available" geographic information.

This Initiative represents the best plan for updating and upgrading resolution and reliability of the basic planning maps for the entire state. While other states have enjoyed the accuracy and reliability of larger scale maps for many years, Alaska has had to struggle with small-scale maps that do not even meet the National Map Accuracy Standards. It is time that we have decent maps to use for the reasonable development of resources that are relied upon by the entire nation.

Very truly yours

AeroMap U.S.

Robert M. Schweitzer, P.I.S./C.
Vice President

Racal Pelagos, Inc.
911 West 8th Avenue, Suite 208
Anchorage, AK 99501
Telephone: (907) 258-1799
Fax: (907) 258-3422

Racal Pelagos, Inc.
5434 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
Telephone: (858) 292-8922
Fax: (858) 292-5308

June 2, 2000

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W 7th Avenue, Box 13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Dear Gust:

I am writing to endorse the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative as drafted by the Alaska Geographic Data Committee. This initiative can provide an effective means for improving the quality of statewide land based mapping through high-resolution digital orthoimagery and enhanced digital elevation data. As a past member of the Alaska Geographic Data Committee, I appreciate the needs for accurate orthoimagery and digital elevation data to meet public and private applications. Now, as a member of the private sector, I support the efficacy of having access to publicly accessible up-to-date digital mapping information for project planning and management in Alaska. I also appreciate that the magnitude of this project will require close cooperation and contracting with the private sector.

Racal Pelagos, Inc. is an internationally affiliated surveying and mapping firm with long-term contracts in Alaska. These contracts require completing projects that merge with existing maps. Often, because of the age of existing data, complexities in geo-referencing, and datum shifts, joining new surveys with old data results in additional work. The Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative provides an approach to resolve the land-side challenges and increase efficiency.

Thank you for recognizing Racal Pelagos, Inc. endorsement of the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. If I can answer any questions, please contact me at 907-259-1799.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Pawlowski
Alaska Manager Business Development

RACAL



EVERGREEN HELICOPTERS OF ALASKA, INC.

1935 Merrill Field Drive • Anchorage, AK 99501-4119 USA
Phone (907) 276-2454 • Fax (907) 279-6816

June 23, 2000

Mr. Gust Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

RE: Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative

Dear Mr. Panos:

Evergreen Helicopters of Alaska, Inc. (EHA) appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support for the efforts of the Alaska Geographic Data Committee, and particularly the overall concept and technical standards that are essential parts of its Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative.

EHA has been a supplier of fixed and rotary wing platform solutions to the geophysical, survey and mapping industries in Alaska since 1963. During our 37 years in this business, we have seen steady, but incremental improvements both in technology and in data collected/mapping produced. However, as a consumer of mapping products in Alaska, we see a definite need for significantly more mapping products showing more and better imagery and elevation data.

Based on the imagery and elevation objectives of the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative, there will be significant improvements in maps of Alaska. Such data and products will improve the efficiency and safety of conducting transportation, trade and commerce in the state. This is especially important to EHA's many bush and Alaska Native customers.

As an active part of one the industries in Alaska supporting mapping data acquisition, interpretation, analysis and production, EHA stands ready, willing and able to perform the work that needs to be done to achieve the objectives of the Initiative.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit this letter in support of the Committee and the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Thies", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Thies
Director of Marketing
EHA



INTERNET · GIS · DATABASE

2121 Abbott Road
Suite 202
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Tel: 907 677 1500
Fax: 907 677 1502
www.geonorth.com

*Value through
integration and innovation*

March 1, 2001

Gust C. Panos
Chairman, Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, Box 13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Mr. Panos:

GeoNorth is happy to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. As a longtime Alaska GIS firm, GeoNorth understands the importance of accurate and timely Geographic data - including digital orthoimagery.

Alaska's U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps are over forty years old and are based on 1950's technology. The advancements in orthoimagery technology over the last few years now make it feasible to provide up to date, high quality, digital orthoimagery and elevation data to all statewide users of GIS data.


GeoNorth is an avid user of Alaska GIS data as many of our projects involve incorporating this data into our applications and commercial products. We are very pleased that the Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee recognizes this as a priority. The benefit of this Initiative will be shared by all the citizens of Alaska including those individuals and agencies interested in economic development, natural resource management, and environmental and habitat research.

AGDC is to be commended for fostering partnerships among Alaska GIS stakeholders including Native Corporations, State and Federal Agencies, Local and Municipal government, and the private sector.

Again, I am pleased offer our endorsement for this Initiative and we would be happy to assist the subcommittee in any way we can.

Sincerely,

GeoNorth, LLC.


Brian Minster
President

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

410 Willoughby Ave., Ste 105
Juneau, AK 99801-1795
PHONE: (907) 465-5065
FAX: (907) 465-5070
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/>

February 7, 2001

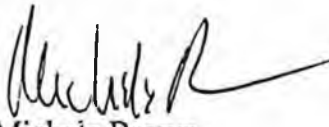
The Honorable Randy Phillips
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol. Room 103
Juneau. AK 99801

Dear Senator Phillips:

I was surprised by the suggestion in your January 22, 2001 letter that progress on the federal funding proposal for the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative is "stagnant due to lack of written support from the Department." The Department of Environmental Conservation has expressed its support of the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative as a member of the Alaska Geographic Data Committee that sponsored the Initiative. DEC is also a member of the Alaska Land Managers Forum which wrote a letter of support last summer signed by Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer on behalf of all state members (attached).

Until your letter, no one related to the project had contacted me or requested an additional, individual letter of support beyond that which we have already provided. I have taken your letter as such a request and will send a letter restating our support.

Sincerely,


Michele Brown
Commissioner

cc: Gust C. Panos

Healthy People, Healthy Environment

Alaska Department of Community
and Economic Development

Office of the Commissioner

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1770 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3510
Telephone: (907) 269-8100 • Fax: (907) 269-8127
Website: www.dced.state.ak.us

February 9, 2001

Mr. Gust Panos, Chairperson
Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West Seventh Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) would like to express its support for the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. DCED believes that there are many private and public sector benefits to be realized with the creation of the new imagery.

The DCED's overall mission is to promote healthy economies and strong communities. Reliable and current base mapping is an important element to economic and resource development. The imagery would also provide benefits for community development and public safety.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) has done a great job in fostering partnerships among State and Federal agencies that compile and manage geographic information for Alaska. As every year goes by we believe that the AGDC and its member agencies and groups continue to improve the coordination and wise use of resources to assemble geographic information that can be shared amongst private and public sector users.

We agree that the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery is an important step in improving the base of Alaska's mapping information and as such support federal funding to make this initiative possible.

Sincerely

Deborah B. Sedwick
Deborah B. Sedwick
Commissioner

"Promoting a healthy economy and strong communities"

STATE OF ALASKA

Tony Knowles, Governor

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 21149
Juneau, AK 99802-1149
Phone: (907) 465-2700
Fax: (907) 465-2784

January 29, 2001

Gust C. Panos, Chairperson
Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. Seventh Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

The U.S. Geological Survey has identified the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative as a high priority.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is the cooperative state representative with the U.S. Census Bureau for census geography. As such, we agree that this is a vital first step to improving the accuracy of Alaska maps and support federal funding to make this initiative possible.

Sincerely,



Ed Flanagan, Commissioner

cc: Senator Randy Phillips
Christopher Miller, Chief, Research and Analysis
Paul Brooks, Aeromap

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

- 400 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1796
PHONE: (907) 465-2400
FAX: (907) 465-3886
- 550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1400
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3650
PHONE: (907) 269-8431
FAX: (907) 269-8918

February 9, 2001

Randy Phillips
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Phillips:


Thank you for the letter on the Alaska Geographic Data Committee Orthoimagery Initiative. I appreciate your concern for federal funding of digital elevation modeling and orthoimagery efforts in Alaska. We would all like to have better topographic data and orthoimagery for Alaska.

It is my understanding that this year the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) has included an approximately \$6 MM Initiative in their federal FFY02 budget submittal to Congress for the Alaska Orthoimagery Initiative. I also understand other Interior Department agencies may supplement this request. As part of the normal federal budget process, this Initiative is now progressing through the various steps that are required of all federal budgets. DNR applauds the federal recognition of the shortcomings of topographic elevation data and orthoimagery in Alaska and we certainly support the funding effort they are making to address the issue.

This initiative is becoming a part of the President's budget and funding has already been officially requested. Endorsements will probably not affect the outcome of this initiative in the federal Office of Management and Budget one way or the other and if the Initiative reaches the Senate Appropriations Committee, I believe the chances are good that it will receive favorable consideration.

DNR supports the work that the Alaska Geologic Data Committee is doing to bring this matter to the attention of the USGS National Mapping Division at the national level.

Sincerely,


Pat Pourchot
Commissioner



"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

HABITAT AND RESTORATION DIVISION

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4105/4125
FAX: (507) 465-4759

February 23, 2001

Mr. Gus Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
Bureau of Land Management-AK924
222 West 7th Ave., Box 13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Mr. Panos:

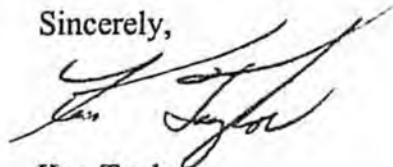
Re: Support for Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative

I wish to commend you for your effort on the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. We believe this Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) undertaking will contribute immensely to a wide spectrum of Alaskan agencies seeking to use both geographic and cartographic information.

Our need for orthoimagery maps is statewide, and continues to grow. We view the initiative as a step in a very positive direction. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has benefited enormously from the overlays and analyses of electronic maps, and can derive many potential benefits from the orthoimagery map layers. Within the Division of Habitat and Restoration we have a continual need to monitor and protect our fish-bearing streams, assess and plan for the restoration of habitat, and mitigate other impacts to fish habitat. Any future production of the orthoimagery maps should greatly enhance the planning and decision-making ability of our management staff.

Please accept this letter as a strong affirmation of support for your mapping initiative.

Sincerely,



Ken Taylor
Director

cc: Rob Bosworth, ADF&G/CO
Frank Wallis, ADF&G/H&R

Tim Haverland, ADF&G/CF

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

3132 CHANNEL DRIVE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-7898

TEXT: (907) 465-3652
FAX: (907) 586-8365
PHONE: (907) 465-3900

March 12, 2001

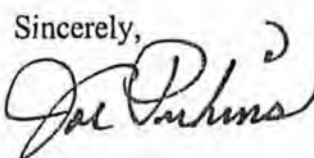
Mr. Panos, Chairperson
Digital Orthoimagery
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
Bureau of Land Management - AK924
222 West 7th Ave., Box 13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Mr. Panos:

Please accept this letter as the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities endorsement and full support for the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The Department feels that a project of this type and scope is long overdue, and the obvious benefits to us as well as other federal, state, local and private agencies are apparent.

We have recognized Alaska's lack of base data and continually find ourselves frustrated by the data that is available due to its age or form. We have put a considerable amount of effort and funding into various projects throughout the years in an effort to alleviate the state's lack of data. These efforts, although useful, either fell short or stalled due to funding and support or they were a piece mill patch to a statewide shortcoming. Your efforts and those of the Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC), should be commended for bringing together the different agencies around the state, identifying the need, and developing and proposing a solution for data acquisition. Recently we have committed to a multiyear collection and maintenance effort of the transportation infrastructure and features using Differential Global Positioning Systems (DGPS). The Digital Orthoimagery Initiative would greatly enhance and compliment our DGPS effort and assist us in our data processing. The product of this Initiative would benefit numerous divisions and sections throughout the department and assist staff in our efforts to meet our goals of improving the quality of life for Alaskans by cost effectively providing, operating and maintaining safe, environmentally sound and reliable transportation systems and public facilities.

We feel that the new Digital Orthoimagery Initiative is a necessary and crucial step in the direction of alleviating the shortage or lack of current and accurate Geographic Information for Alaska. It will also serve as an effort in providing Alaska the kind of digital coverage and standards of base data enjoyed by the rest of the nation. It is an important and effective step in improving the quality of statewide data and again we offer you our strong affirmation of support for this Initiative.

Sincerely,


Joseph L. Perkins, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Senator Randy Phillips, Alaska State Legislature

January 29, 2001

Gust Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

RE: Endorsement of Alaska Digital
Orthoimagery Initiative



Palmer Research Center
533 E. Fireweed Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 746-9459 • FAX: (907) 746-2677

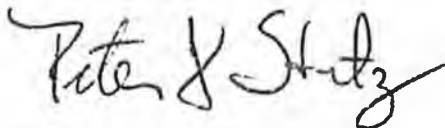
Dear Mr. Panos:

The 4-H Fisheries and Natural Resource Program associated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service is pleased to endorse the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. Our program works with over 60 rural communities in Alaska teaching science and math literacy to K-12 students using in-classroom salmon incubators. Students become aware of a wide variety of natural resource issues including watershed management, fisheries biology, aquaculture and water quality during the yearlong project. A familiarization and use of maps is incorporated into the natural resource project. Most of the schools use existing mapping data currently available in Alaska which tends to be very dated and often cost-prohibited and variable in scale.

We would be eager to employ the new statewide high-resolution digital satellite imagery that ADOI promises to our partner schools. We endorse your efforts to secure the federal funding necessary to make this happen.

Please keep us informed of your efforts and success so that we can forward this important new way of viewing and teaching about Alaskan landscapes to rural Alaskan teachers.

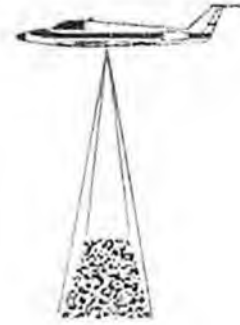
Sincerely,



PETER J. STORTZ
Extension 4-H Fisheries, Natural Resource &
Youth Development Specialist

National Digital Orthophoto Program

Bureau of Land Management
Farm Services Agency
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National States Geographic Information Council
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey



March 16, 2000

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
4230 University Drive
Room 230
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Mr. Panos:

On behalf of the National Digital Orthophoto Program (NDOP) Steering Committee, I'm writing to let you know the Steering Committee endorses the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The initiative would provide a long-needed base map for statewide use by government agencies, native villages and the general public. This initiative complements the Steering Committee's work of fostering partnerships for acquiring digital orthoimagery, expanding the use of geodata, and providing common standards and technical direction.

The use of current and reliable geographic information has become a business standard in local, state, and federal government agencies as well as in the private sector. Orthoimagery is the foundation layer in a framework of geographic information which is necessary to manage and develop resources responsibly. It is the layer from which many types of geographic information are extracted as well as geo-referenced to a location on the ground.

An excellent overview of the Alaska Initiative was presented to the NDOP Committee on January 26, 2000 at our meeting in Austin, Texas. It became very apparent from the presentation that Alaska would greatly benefit from statewide digital orthoimagery coverage. Alaska's US Geological topographic maps are forty years old, and statewide aerial photography is twenty years old. These two major sources of base geographic information do not represent the changing landscape, or provide adequate support to Alaska's major programs. We are in agreement new digital orthoimagery would go far in alleviating the critical shortage of current and reliable geographic information in Alaska.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) is commended for promoting partnerships, and determining the common needs among local, state, and federal agencies, Native corporations, and the private sector. The Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative is a result of the AGDC's cooperative work. The spirit and purpose in which the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative was assembled certainly parallels the spirit of the NDOP Steering Committee.

The NDOP Steering Committee strongly believes the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative is warranted and we provide it our full endorsement. The committee wishes AGDC success in moving forward with this initiative, and extends an invitation to provide assistance if needed.



Best Regards,
George Rohaley
Presiding NDOP Chairperson
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

CC: Ed Harne, Bureau of Land Management
Glenn Bethel, Farm Services Agency
John Gambel, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Ted Koch, National States Geographic Information Council
Bill Belton, U.S. Forest Service
Dick Kleckner, U.S. Geological Survey



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WATERWAYS EXPERIMENT STATION, 3909 HALLS FERRY ROAD
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39180-6199

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CEERD-RV-7

12 June 2000

COASTAL AND HYDRAULICS
LABORATORY
Waterways Experiment Station
3909 Halls Ferry Road
Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

COLD REGIONS RESEARCH
AND ENGINEERING
LABORATORY
72 Lynde Road
Hanover, NH 03755-1290

CONSTRUCTION
ENGINEERING RESEARCH
LABORATORY
P.O. Box 9005
Champaign, IL 61826-9005

ENVIRONMENTAL
LABORATORY
Waterways Experiment Station
3909 Halls Ferry Road
Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

GEOTECHNICAL
LABORATORY
Waterways Experiment Station
3909 Halls Ferry Road
Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY
Waterways Experiment Station
3909 Halls Ferry Road
Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

STRUCTURES LABORATORY
Waterways Experiment Station
3909 Halls Ferry Road
Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

TOPOGRAPHIC
ENGINEERING CENTER
7701 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22315-3864

Mr. Gust Panos
Chairman, Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee
Alaska Geographical Data Committee
Bureau of Land Management
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Subject: Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative

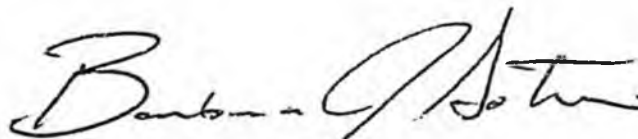
Dear Mr. Panos:

We fully support the initiative to acquire high-resolution digital imagery of the State of Alaska as developed by the Alaska Geographical Data Committee (AGDC), on which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District is a member. The goal of the initiative is to acquire digital imagery of the entire state at a minimum of 5-m resolution, and, for specific areas, 1-m resolution. This imagery will be made available to interested parties through the USGS and the University of Alaska Supercomputing Center.

The Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, one of the seven laboratories constituting the Corps of Engineers Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC), is an active participant in many projects in Alaska through our offices in Fairbanks, Anchorage, as well as through our main laboratory in Hanover, NH. The availability of current orthoimagery data would greatly enhance our ability to perform our mission in Alaska. We anticipate significant benefits to our research and engineering programs, whether in the environmental arena, or on properties of snow, ice, and frozen ground, and whether for Civil Works or defense related projects from the type of data that is envisioned. The acquisition of high resolution digital imagery of Alaska will also be extremely useful to the projects of the Corps of Engineers Remote Sensing/GIS Center located at our main laboratory (POC: Mr. Andrew Bruzewicz). Finally, it will enhance our capability of supporting the Alaska District, Corps of Engineers, in their mission.

Again, let me express our full support for this initiative as we look forward to utilizing this valuable scientific and planning resource when it becomes available in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara J. Sotirin".

Barbara J. Sotirin, PhD
Director
Cold Regions Research &
Engineering Laboratory

Cc: Jerry Zuspan, CEPOA-EN-ES-SY



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR FORCES

JUN 9 2000

Lieutenant General Thomas R. Case
Commander, Eleventh Air Force
9480 Pease Ave Ste 101
Elmendorf AFB AK 99506-2100

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage AK 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos

On behalf of the Eleventh Air Force, I fully endorse the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery initiative. This initiative would provide a long-needed geographical map for statewide use by government agencies, native villages, and the general public. Furthermore, this initiative would foster interagency communication by providing a single fixed reference map for integrating independent programs.

Current and reliable geographic information is beneficial for the development of military exercises. Knowledge of terrain allows military planners to develop more effective and realistic training exercises. It also assists us in infrastructure development and enhances our management of natural resources. Furthermore, Alaskans will significantly benefit from statewide digital orthoimagery coverage. This initiative will be useful in planning for community expansion and recreational enhancement.

I appreciate the effort the Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) has directed toward promoting partnerships between governmental agencies, native tribes and corporations, and the private sector. The Alaska Digital Orthoimagery initiative is a result of the AGDC's cooperative effort. We support continued efforts and progress in this initiative.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas R. Case".

THOMAS R. CASE
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 23, 2000

OFFICE OF
WATER

Gust C. Panos
Chairmerson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

The EPA American Indian Environmental Office has a responsibility to develop a baseline characterization of environmental conditions for Alaska Tribes and native villages. Presently 134 of the 227 federally recognized Tribes and Villages in Alaska are receiving General Assistance Program (GAP) grants from our office, administrated through the EPA Region 10 Anchorage Operations Office in your building. We anticipate that even more Alaska Tribes will receive grants in FY 2001. GAP grants provide funding to help Tribes develop the capacity to manage and implement environmental programs.

As Tribes in Alaska develop their environmental capacity, baseline information on the present quality of their environment becomes extremely important for management and prioritization decisions. We believe your acquisition of Digital Orthophoto coverages for Alaska can be a valuable contribution to our tribal efforts. We would like to establish a formal link with the Alaska Geographic Data Committee, to explore development of a tribal component to your activities which could target and provide services to Tribes as they become active in environmental and resource management activities. You will be hearing soon from our Baseline Assessment Coordinator, Dr. Ed Liu, about our interest in the Alaska Geographic Data Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Smith".

Ben Smith, Acting Deputy Director
American Indian Environmental Office



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Aviation
Administration

Office of the Regional Administrator
Alaskan Region

222 West 7th Avenue, #14
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587
Phone: (907) 271-5645
Fax: (907) 271-5113

May 30, 2000

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Alaskan Region, is pleased to endorse the concept of the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The FAA has many areas of responsibility across Alaska and the use of current and reliable geographic information has become a necessity as we move to capitalize our facilities and our daily business practices. Orthoimagery provides a foundation for establishment of an up-to-date system for tracking transportation facilities including airports and airways.

Currently, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is not planning to update their topological maps or aerial photos for Alaska. Existing maps and photos are between twenty to forty years old, and do not provide the level of information necessary for planning and supporting FAA programs and projects within Alaska. Orthoimagery, which can be used to generate accurate topological maps, would alleviate these problems. Unfortunately, FAA has not received and does not anticipate receiving funding that could be used in support of this project.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee is commended for the effort it has put into identifying the effected community and working with them to develop a viable solution that will aid Federal, State, local, Native, and private sector entities. We expect great benefits for FAA, and the Alaskan community, from this effort, and we provide our full endorsement.

Sincerely,


Patrick N. Pee
Regional Administrator



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Regional Administrator
Alaskan Region

222 West 7th Avenue, #14
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587
Phone: (907) 271-5645
Fax: (907) 271-5113

January 3, 2001

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
Bureau of Land Management
222 W. 7th Ave., #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Mr. Panos:

The *CAPSTONE* program wholeheartedly endorses the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. Aviation is critical to transportation in Alaska where airway facilities are scattered rather randomly across the expanse of Alaska in support of the aviation community. Unfortunately, the highway system in Alaska is not similarly distributed. With only about 38,400 square miles covered by connecting highways, about 586,000 square miles has no interconnecting road system at all. In actuality, only 6% - 7% of the state is on connecting roads (and far less in the same area on the rail system). The remainder, 93% - 94%, is reached by air. The data generated by your project will be of significant use for aviation interests throughout the Alaska. Ultimately, applying data from this survey will translate to the basic ingredient urgently needed by Alaska's aviation community: increased flight safety and efficiency for all users.

CAPSTONE is tasked to explore, test and prove emerging technology that is designed to lead the aviation industry and air traffic control into the 21st century. This program relies extensively on existing survey data to test new technology - using survey data gathered 40 years ago results in significant penalties in the application of this new technology in order to insure program application safety. With updated, accurate and certified survey information, instrument approach procedures, enroute 'moving map' technology, and minimum altitudes throughout the state will all be able to be refined to more accurate standards. Accurate terrain data means more accurate obstacle clearance when weather conditions require instrument flight in the clouds. This coupled with the technologies the *CAPSTONE* is currently exploring will result in the key goal: increased safety for the aviation community in Alaska.

Your mapping initiative has *CAPSTONE* support. The benefits to aviation in Alaska will be both immediate and far-reaching. We look forward to the day when we have accurate survey data to marry with the latest in aviation technology.

Sincerely,

John R. Hallinan
Capstone Program Manager, AAL-1S



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Coastal Services Center
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413

December 21, 2000

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
4230 University Drive, Room 230
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Mr. Panos:

On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Services Center (Center), I would like to express our support for the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. This Initiative will allow for the production of high-resolution digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data representative of the current landscape throughout the entire state of Alaska. This type of geographic information is imperative for addressing land use, natural hazards, and resource management issues, which are also areas of interest to the Coastal Services Center.

The Coastal Services Center's mission is to foster and sustain the environmental and economic well-being of the nation's coasts by linking people, information, and technology. We are committed to bringing dependable information, technology, and services to the coastal resource management community. The Center is presently a partner in over 100 ongoing projects around the country, including Alaska, focused on resolving site specific coastal issues. Reliable digital geographic and spatial information are at the foundation of the services and tools we offer, and the Center recognizes the demand for such data in Alaska.

Please accept the Center's full endorsement of the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. We are enthusiastic about the prospect of new geospatial data being generated for Alaska and commend the Alaska Geographic Data Committee for its efforts in putting forth this Initiative.

Sincerely,

Anne H. Miglarese
Branch Chief
Coastal Information Services

Linking People, Resources and Information
URL <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/>



National Ocean Service National Marine Fisheries Service National Weather Service
Ocean and Atmospheric Research National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, DC 20233-0001

APR 03 2000

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson for the Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
4230 University Drive, Room 230
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Mr. Panos:

The U.S. Census Bureau applauds the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. As you know, the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) System, is the U.S. Census Bureau's geospatial data base used to support the collection and tabulation of data from censuses and statistical surveys. Roads, boundaries, and other information in the TIGER data base are updated using tribal, state, and local geospatial information provided to the U.S. Census Bureau by those who are willing to work in partnership.

Alaska provides unique challenges for statistical activities due to its widely dispersed population, limited transportation network, and its large land area. When the U.S. Census Bureau built the TIGER data base during the early 1980s, there was no single, highly accurate source available to create the Alaska feature network. Although Alaska state and local geospatial information was used to update the TIGER data base in preparation for Census 2000, it was a labor intensive process. The benefits of having orthoimagery for Alaska certainly will help alleviate this problem as all geospatial information for Alaska migrates to the same accurate coordinates based on the digital orthoimagery positioning. Having multiple partners on the same coordinate base paves the way for simple digital file exchange for participation in U.S. Census Bureau programs, such as those for voting district and census tract delineation. Alaska tribal, state, and local agencies will be able to contribute to the update and maintenance of the TIGER data base in a timely fashion without duplication of effort.

The U.S. Census Bureau endorses the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative and commends the Alaska Geographic Data Committee. The outreach efforts associated with this initiative and coordination with the Alaska Native corporations, boroughs, state, and federal agencies will help meet a broad spectrum of needs.

Sincerely,

ROBERT W. MARX
Chief, Geography Division

USCENSUSBUREAU

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2525 Gambell Street, Room 107
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2892

MAY 24 2000

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

The National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office (NPS) would like to endorse the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The NPS is responsible for 16 units in Alaska which total over 54.5 million acres. The staff that manages these Parks, Preserves, Monuments, and Wild and Scenic Rivers along with the visiting public would benefit greatly from the Initiative.

We have an established program that brings Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to NPS managers and technical staff. The availability and use of current and reliable geographic information is an absolute necessity for NPS in order to carry out its mission. We consider orthoimagery and digital elevation data as one of the foundation layers in a framework of geographic information necessary for us to fully utilize GIS. This core layer of data would be used to extract many types of geographic information and register new data.

Alaska's US Geological Topographic maps are forty years old, available aerial photography is twenty years old, and current digital elevation data is coarse and inaccurate. These major sources of base geographic information do not represent the changing landscape or the current conditions. There are currently no plans in the future to update and replace US Geological Survey maps, obtain new imagery or generate new digital elevation data for Alaska. We believe new digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data provided by the Digital Orthoimagery Initiative would go far in alleviating the critical shortage of current and reliable geographic information in Alaska.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) has been a key player in fostering partnerships and determining the common needs among the private sector, Native corporations, local, State, and Federal agencies. The AGDC is commended for its efforts. We believe the Initiative will be of great benefit to NPS and Alaska and we provide it our full endorsement.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Barbee
Regional Director



IN REPLY REFER TO:

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Alaska Region
P.O. Box 25520
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5520

May 30, 2000

Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Regional Office (BIA) would like to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The BIA has several areas of responsibility in Alaska that could benefit from the Initiative. Our main land management responsibility is to help Alaska Natives owning restricted land, i.e. Native allotments and restricted townsite lots, to manage those lands. This includes acquisition and disposal of the property, extraction of natural resources, leasing and permitting, granting of rights-of-way, etc. There are over 13,000 Native allotment parcels and 4,000 restricted townsite lots, covering 1.3 million acres.

We are beginning to incorporate Geographic Information System (GIS) technology into our daily business practices. The use of current and reliable geographic information will certainly enhance our ability to fulfill our trust responsibility to Alaska Natives owning restricted land. BIA would use GIS to gather, display and analyze geographic information to assist in our management responsibilities.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) has done an excellent job in fostering partnerships and determining the common needs among the private sector, Native corporations, local, state, and federal agencies. The AGDC is commended for its efforts. We believe the Initiative will be of great benefit to BIA and our clients in Alaska and we provide it our full endorsement.

Sincerely,

Niles C. Cesar
Regional Director



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALASKA STATE OFFICE
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99513-7599

MAY 23 2000

Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

The Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office (BLM) would like to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. BLM has many areas of responsibility in Alaska which could benefit from the Initiative. The main areas of responsibility are:

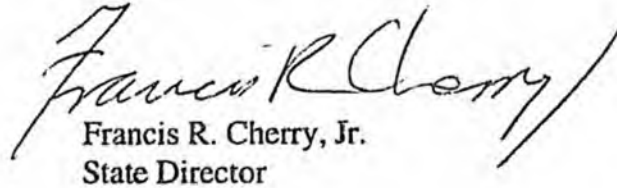
- collaboratively managing land and uses for 87 million acres of land,
- surveying and conveying over 144 million acres of land to the State of Alaska, native corporations, and individuals, and
- providing a secure, accessible storehouse for public land and resource records.

We are incorporating Geographic Information System (GIS) technology into our daily business practices. The use of current and reliable geographic information is an absolute necessity for BLM in order to carry out its mission. BLM uses GIS to gather, display and analyze geographic information to assist in our management responsibilities. We consider orthoimagery and digital elevation data as the foundation layers in a framework of geographic information necessary for us to fully utilize GIS. These are the layers of data from which many types of geographic information is extracted from, registered to and analyzed with.

Alaska's US Geological Topographic maps are forty years old, available aerial photography is twenty years old, and current digital elevation data is coarse and inaccurate. These major sources of base geographic information do not represent the changing landscape or the current conditions. There are currently no existing or future plans to update and replace US Geological Survey maps, obtain new imagery, or generate new digital elevation data for Alaska. We believe new digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data provided by the Digital Orthoimagery Initiative would go far in alleviating the critical shortage of current and reliable geographic information in Alaska.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) has done an excellent job in fostering partnerships and determining the common needs among the private sector, Native corporations, local, state, and federal agencies. The AGDC is commended for its efforts. We believe the Initiative will be of great benefit to BLM and Alaska and we provide our full endorsement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis R. Cherry, Jr." with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Francis R. Cherry, Jr.
State Director



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

IRM

JUN 2 2000

Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

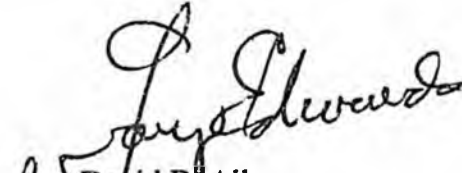
The Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7 (FWS) would like to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. FWS has many areas of responsibility in Alaska which could benefit from the Initiative. The main areas of responsibility are:

- Managing land and uses for 78 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge land,
- Statewide authority over trust wildlife species and their habitats,
- Statewide management of subsistence hunting and fishing on all federally owned land,
- Management of marine mammals.

We are incorporating Geographic Information System (GIS) technology into our daily business practices. The use of current and reliable geographic information is an absolute necessity for FWS in order to carry out its mission. FWS uses GIS to gather, display and analyze geographic information to assist in our management responsibilities. We consider orthoimagery and digital elevation data as the foundation layers in a framework of geographic information necessary for us to fully utilize GIS. These are the layers of data from which many types of geographic information is extracted from, registered to and analyzed with.

Alaska's US Geological Topographic maps are forty years old and some were never made, available aerial photography is twenty years old where it exists, and current digital elevation data is coarse and inaccurate. These major sources of base geographic information do not represent the changing landscape or the current conditions. There are currently no plans in the future to update and replace US Geological Survey maps, obtain new imagery or generate new digital elevation data for Alaska. We believe new digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data provided by the Digital Orthoimagery Initiative would go far in alleviating the critical shortage of current and reliable geographic information in Alaska.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) has done an excellent job in fostering partnerships and determining the common needs among the private sector, Native corporations, local, state, and federal agencies. The AGDC is commended for its efforts. We believe the Initiative will be of great benefit to FWS and Alaska and we provide it our full endorsement.


David B. Allen
Regional Director - Region 7
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



JOINT PIPELINE OFFICE

411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 2
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 271-5070/271-4336
FAX # (907) 272-0680

November 17, 2000

Letter No.: 00-070-DW
File No.: (51) 1.3
(51) 1.9
(53) 1
DD.: N/A

Gust Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West 7th Avenue, Box 13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Re: Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative

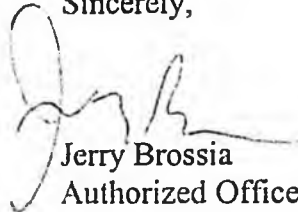
Dear Mr. Panos:

The Joint Pipeline Office would like to add our endorsement to the Orthoimagery Initiative. The Joint Pipeline Office is a consortium of State and Federal agencies that oversee the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and other Alaskan pipelines in the best interest of the people of the nation and the State of Alaska. We work with the oil and gas industry to achieve safe operation, environmental protection, pipeline integrity and regulatory compliance.

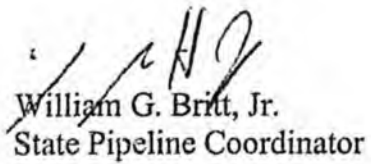
Our consortium members recognize the need and value of having digital orthoimagery available along areas such as the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline System, in order to increase our ability to conduct oversight of the pipeline corridor. We request you prioritize obtaining orthoimagery for 1) Trans-Alaska Pipeline Corridor (2 miles either side center line); 2) proposed ANGTS route Delta Junction to US/Canadian Border; 3) North Slope oil/gas development 40 mile area Kaktovik to Barrow; 4) Fairbanks to Kenai along the highway. Digital orthoimagery would be a valuable in oversight planning of North Slope Oil/Gas development and proposed Natural Gas pipelines.

We fully support the Initiative's goal of obtaining funding to acquire digital orthoimagery and elevation data for Alaska and having the data available in the future for Alaskan agencies as well as Native organizations, the private sector and the public.

Sincerely,



Jerry Brossia
Authorized Officer



William G. Britt, Jr.
State Pipeline Coordinator



File Code: 7140

Date: JUN 2 2000

Gust C. Panos
Chairperson
Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W 7th Avenue #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

The USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region would like to add our endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. Since 1998, the Alaska Region has implemented an aggressive program to acquire Digital Orthophoto Quads (DOQ's) over National Forest System lands. DOQ's provide an invaluable data set for monitoring field activities, measuring impacts and communicating activities to our publics.

The key advantage of using DOQ's in conjunction with daily fieldwork is having the product georeferenced. This enables us to extract map coordinates from the DOQ to use in Global Positioning System (GPS) units, as well as overlay data collected by GPS directly onto the DOQ.

This initiative will resolve two mapping shortfalls that exist over Forest Service managed lands in Alaska. First, adjoining land owners do not have the same level of data (DOQ's) that exist over Forest Service lands; and second, the statewide digital elevation data is old and lacks resolution to meet today's technologies. Statewide DOQ coverage would provide the same level of data to all lands managed by the federal, state, local and native corporations. This level of data is critical when managing fire suppression, emergency response disasters and bug kill infestation on a statewide base.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee has proven to be an ideal forum for the public, private sector corporations, native corporations, state and federal agencies to share and promote mapping data projects. This initiative will benefit all Alaska and the Alaska Region of the Forest Service fully supports your efforts.

Sincerely,

RICK D. CABLES
Regional Forester



Alaska Soil and Water Conservation District

949 E. 36th Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

e-mail: akdistrict@customcpu.com
www.customcpu.com/akdistrict

Phone: 907 271-2424
Fax 907 271-3951

Mr. Gust C. Panos
BLM AK 924
222 West 7th Avenue, Box 13
Anchorage, AK 99513

May 1, 2000

Dear Mr. Panos,

As the district coordinator for the Alaska Soil and Water Conservation District, I am responsible for coordinating conservation efforts across Alaska's most remote and rural terrain. The Alaska District works with individual landowners to develop conservation plans tailored to their specific needs. We also maintain partnership with state and federal agencies to sponsor conservation research.

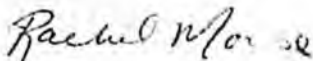
The Alaska Soil and Water Conservation District contains over 331 million acres. In terms of covering that much ground, accurate and dependable geographic information is essential. The present lack of reliable, current and statewide orthoimagery for Alaska creates a massive stumbling block for conservation planning and research efforts in Alaska.

Orthoimagery dated prior to mining, timber harvests and urbanization are not very useful for developing new management practices that address issues these activities create. Most orthoimagery of the state is at least 20 years old. Much change has come to Alaska's landscape since that time. These changes are not represented.

In addition, large coverage gaps result in areas for which no data is available. This is a problem not only due to missing information, but because it impedes the compilation of field research data. Digitized field data allows researchers to tap the power of GIS applications for spatial data analysis. However, synthesizing field data in digital format becomes extremely time consuming without a consistent digital database to serve as the foundation. Large-scale images of the entire state are often not at an appropriate scale for study areas such as Aleutian Islands. Digitized orthoimagery would provide a current and consistent foundation to support field data.

The creation of a current, state-wide orthoimagery database would help conservation efforts in regards to both research and landowner planning. The Alaska Soil and Water Conservation District strongly supports the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. Alaskan residents should have access to the same type of geographic data as the Lower 48—the data that will help them conserve and protect Alaska's resources.

Sincerely,



Rachel Morse
District Coordinator

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 69

Barrow, Alaska 99723

Phone: 907-852-2611

907-852-0320

Fax: 907-852-0322



Rex A. Okakok, Sr., Planning Director

May 9, 2000

Gust C. Panos
BLM Chief of Mapping Sciences
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Subject: Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative

Dear Mr. Panos:

The North Slope Borough (NSB) Department of Planning and Community Services, Geographic Information System (GIS) would like to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The NSB has many areas of responsibility that would benefit from this initiative, including land selections; native allotments; resource exploration and development; resource assessment; cultural preservation; permitting and zoning; search and rescue; community planning; watershed protection and coastal management. GIS products are used by Borough employees every day to make land management decisions. For this reason current and reliable geographic information is an absolute necessity for the NSB to carry out its mission.

The acquisition of 1 meter resolution imagery for the North Slope villages and the Hall Road transportation corridor would enhance our planning and management capabilities. The acquisition of 5 meter resolution imagery for the Resource Development District would be invaluable for addressing permitting and zoning issues. The NSB applauds the efforts of the Alaska Data and Geographic Committee for striving to build current statewide databases that meet National Accuracy Standards.

Sincerely,

Allison Graves
GIS System Analyst

CC: Rex A. Okakok, Sr. Planning Director
CC: Sheldon Adams, Deputy Director Land Management



Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Office of Information Technology

June 12, 2000

Mr. Gus Panos
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1675 C. Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

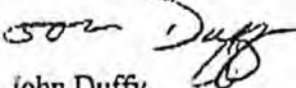
Dear Mr. Panos:

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough enthusiastically supports AGDC's efforts to obtain digital imagery. Current and more detailed digital imagery would allow the Borough to provide better service to our citizens as well as be more accurate in our planning and public works duties. In addition, the digital imagery would allow the Borough to respond more effectively to natural and human-made emergencies. As short list of some of the projects that we could use more accurate digital information include the following.

- Land Use Planning
- Site Selection Analysis
- Trails Identification
- Transportation Planning
- Damage Assessment Mapping
- Watershed Identification
- Parcel Access for Addressing
- Road Alignment Mapping
- Evacuation Routing
- Vegetation/Open Space
- Potential Hazards i.e. fault lines

Presently our limited photography is outdated and incomplete and we are in great need of more detailed and current imagery and we support your efforts to obtain this vital information. Please let me know if you need any other information.

Sincerely,


John Duffy
Assistant Borough Manager

Municipality of Anchorage



P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650
Telephone: (907) 343-6887
Fax: (907) 343-6810
<http://www.ci.anchorage.ak.us>

Rick Mystrom, Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

26 May 2000

Mr. Gus C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

RE: Endorsement of Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative

Dear Mr. Panos:

The Municipality of Anchorage lends its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The Municipality of Anchorage is one of the nation's pioneering GIS sites, and utilizes orthoimagery extensively in many aspects of our GIS. We currently use two and ten foot pixel orthophotography of 1996 vintage. We would like to be able to annually acquire this orthoimagery, but the cost has been prohibitive. It is our hope that the Initiative will allow urban centers such as Anchorage to obtain this level of orthoimagery at reasonable cost.

Orthoimagery is a critical component of any GIS, but in particular an urban GIS. Some examples of how the MOA uses orthoimagery are as follows:

- emergency management and response.
- comprehensive planning and land use studies.
- fire and police dispatch.
- fire hazard determinations (wildfire).
- utility infrastructure mapping,
- heritage land bank management

These are but a few of the application areas. I should mention that we also are in the process of obtaining high resolution satellite imagery as a test of this new technology for our uses. We are very excited about the promise that satellite imagery holds not only as an orthoimagery base, but for remote sensing purposes as well.

We commend the AGDC for fostering partnerships, and for coordinating needs such as these with us. We encourage a continued effort in partnerships. This, in my view, is a necessity in times of shrinking resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Barnwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charles E. Barnwell
GIS Manager



421 West First Avenue,
Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
TEL (907) 276-3133
FAX (907) 276-2584

International Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia

June 2, 2000

Gust Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West 7th Avenue, Suite 13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

Dear Mr. Panos:

The Nature Conservancy is pleased to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative (ADOI). The Nature Conservancy utilizes available mapping data to provide a basis for identifying important sites for the conservation of species and natural communities. This information helps us efficiently identify priorities for conservation throughout Alaska.

Mapping data currently in existence for the state of Alaska is often cost-prohibitive, variable in scale, and significantly out-of-date. We understand that the ADOI would help resolve this situation by providing new statewide high-resolution digital satellite imagery in full compliance with national map accuracy standards.

The Nature Conservancy strongly supports efforts by the Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) to secure the federal funding necessary for the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. AGDC has been instrumental in fostering partnerships and determining the common needs within the private sector, Native corporations, and local, state and federal agencies. We commend AGDC for fostering partnerships, and encourage a continued effort in such partnerships. We believe that the ADOI will be of great benefit to public and private interests throughout Alaska, and provide it our full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. David Banks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

T. David Banks
Director of Science & Stewardship



DUCKS
UNLIMITED
INC.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

One Waterfowl Way
Memphis, TN 38120-2351
(901) 758-3825 FAX: (901) 758-3850

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Executive Secretary
Bill R. Willsey
Memphis, Tennessee

May 18, 2000

Gust Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, # 13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7590

Dear Mr. Panos:

Ducks Unlimited Inc. would like to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. Ducks Unlimited Inc. (DU) Western Regional Office and the Bureau of Land Management have been cooperatively mapping wetlands and associated uplands in Alaska using remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technologies since 1988. Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) satellite imagery is the primary source for this mapping effort, however, we very strongly rely on aerial photography, digital elevation models, and other high-resolution data sets to resolve areas of confusion or to assist us with the accuracy assessment process. Aerial photography is available for much of Alaska, but is highly variable in scale and typically outdated which generally limits its usefulness for assisting us with determining earth cover over large regional areas. The use of current and reliable geographic information is an absolute necessity for DU in order to carry out our projects. We consider orthoimagery and digital elevation data as the best solution to develop a statewide framework of geographic information necessary for us to fully utilize GIS for our mapping efforts.

Alaska's US Geological Topographic maps are forty years old, available aerial photography is twenty years old and current digital elevation data is coarse and inaccurate. These major sources of base geographic information do not represent the changing landscape or the current conditions. According to the Alaska Geographic Data Committee, there are currently no plans to update and replace US Geological Survey Maps, obtain new imagery or generate new digital elevation data for Alaska. We believe that new digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data provided by the Digital Orthoimagery Initiative would alleviate the critical shortage of current and reliable geographic information in Alaska.

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) has been instrumental in fostering partnerships and determining the common needs among the private sector, Native corporations, and local, state, and federal agencies. The Alaska Digital Orthoimagery is a result of the AGDC's work. We believe the initiative will be of great benefit to DU's Earth Cover Mapping work in Alaska and we provide it our full endorsement.

Sincerely,

Dick Kempka
GIS Director



DUCKS
UNLIMITED
INC.

DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC.
WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
3074 Gold Canal Drive
Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6116
(916) 852-2000
(916) 852-2200 Fax

May 17, 2000

Gust Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 W. 7th Avenue, # 13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

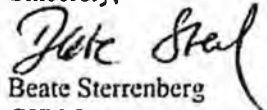
Dear Mr. Panos:

Ducks Unlimited Inc., Western Regional Office, would like to lend its endorsement to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. Ducks Unlimited Inc. (DU) and the Bureau of Land Management have been cooperatively mapping wetlands and associated uplands in Alaska using remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technologies since 1988. Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) satellite imagery is the primary source for this mapping effort, however, we very strongly rely on aerial photography, digital elevation models, and other high-resolution data sets to resolve areas of confusion or to assist us with the accuracy assessment process. Aerial photography is available for much of Alaska, but is highly variable in scale and typically outdated which generally limits its usefulness for assisting us with determining earth cover over large regional areas. The use of current and reliable geographic information is an absolute necessity for DU in order to carry out our projects. We consider orthoimagery and digital elevation data as the best solution to develop a statewide framework of geographic information necessary for us to fully utilize GIS for our mapping efforts.

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The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) has been instrumental in fostering partnerships and determining the common needs among the private sector, Native corporations, and local, state, and federal agencies. The Alaska Digital Orthoimagery is a result of the AGDC's work. We believe the initiative will be of great benefit to DU's Earth Cover Mapping work in Alaska and we provide it our full endorsement.

Sincerely,


Beate Sterrenberg
GIS Manager

cc: Ron Stromstad - Director of Operations



Alaska Field Office 201 Barrow Street, Suite 101 Anchorage, AK 99501
TEL: (907) 276-4048 FAX: (907) 258-6807 nw-ak.field@sierraclub.org

June 2, 2000

Mr. Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Mr. Panos:

The Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club is pleased to support the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative.

Existing USGS maps of this state, now forty to fifty years old, do not accurately portray existing conditions. Updated maps and computer data based on the latest satellite imagery and other advanced mapping technology is clearly in the public interest.

For the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, up-to-date, high-resolution maps would be valuable in, for example, checking land status; considering proposed developments, associated roads, and other transportation facilities; establishing boundaries for proposed protected areas, and evaluating proposed land management plans.

Members of the Chapter who enjoy visiting remote areas of Alaska would be grateful to have the most accurate maps possible. It is conceivable that hitherto unknown landscape features and routes may be revealed through the application of advanced mapping techniques as proposed by the Orthoimagery Initiative.

We encourage the Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee to actively pursue Congressional funding for the Initiative, and we stand ready to testify in support of such funding. Please keep us informed as you move forward with your proposal.

Sincerely,

Jack Hession
Alaska Representative



Management Association
for Private
Photogrammetric Surveyors

June 27, 2000

Mr. Gust C. Panos, Chairman
Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West Seventh Ave., Suite 13
Anchorage, AK 99513
FAX (907) 271-4549

Dear Mr. Panos:

The Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPSS) is a national trade association of more than 140 private companies engaged in photogrammetry, remote sensing and related spatial data technologies. MAPPSS has worked closely with Congress and Federal agencies to expand the use of GIS and related data in government programs. We have strongly supported the National Digital Orthophoto Program (NDOP), the National Aerial Photography Program (NAPP) and related activities.

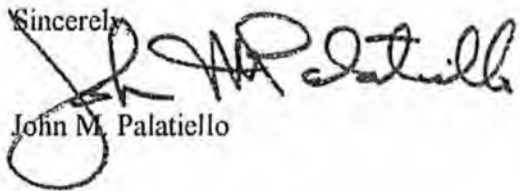
MAPPSS supports the objective of creating new, accurate geospatial data in Alaska through contracting with our member firms. MAPPSS member firms offer proven technology including airborne radar for generating high accuracy digital terrain models, as well as aerial photography and satellite remote sensing data for orthoimages. MAPPSS has member firms in Alaska and throughout the U.S. who are well qualified to provide the geospatial data needed by government agencies for a variety of programs, applications and solutions.

An Alaska Digital Orthophoto Initiative should include quality geospatial data based on a solid foundation of control and digital terrain models.

Alaska is the least-mapped State in the country, and its citizens deserve to have at least the same quality of geographic information as is available to other Americans. We believe there is a need to have quality geospatial data available for wise development of Alaska's natural resources, as well as management of the State's vast environmental holdings, for the benefit of State and the Nation, and for future generations of Americans.

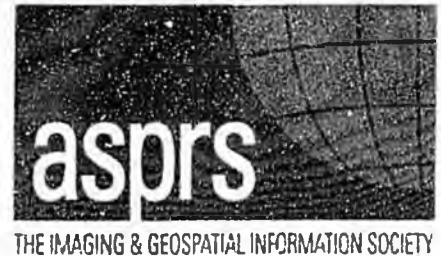
MAPPSS has worked closely with Alaska's congressional delegation in the past on mapping issues and will support funding requests for production of geospatial data that will be contracted out. We commend you for this initiative and look forward to working with you in a public-private partnership to make it a reality.

Sincerely,



John M. Palatiello

John M. Palatiello, Executive Director
1760 Reston Parkway, Suite 515, Reston, Virginia 20190
P (703) 787-6996 F (703) 787-7550 E info@mapps.org www.mapps.org



May 16, 2000

Mr. Gust Panos
Digital Orthoimagery Subcommittee Chairperson
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
4230 University Drive, Suite 230
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Mr. Panos

The Alaska Region of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), supports the Alaska Geographic Data Committee's (AGDC) Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. The mission of ASPRS, the Imaging and Geospatial Information Society, is to advance the knowledge and improve the understanding of the mapping sciences and to promote the responsible applications of photogrammetry, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), and supporting technologies. The ASPRS Alaska Region has 85 members that are actively working in the fields of photogrammetry, remote sensing, and GIS in the private, public, and academic sectors of the community. The undersigned officers of the Alaska Region of ASPRS are in full agreement that the AGDC digital orthoimagery initiative would go far in alleviating the critical shortage of current and reliable geographic information in Alaska.

At present, the USGS 1:63,360 and 1:250,000 scale quadrangles are the mapping standard for the State of Alaska. Most of these topographic maps are more than forty years old and available statewide aerial photography is twenty or more years old. The USGS topographic maps do not meet National Map Accuracy Standards (NMAS) and any data produced from these maps will propagate the inherent inaccuracies contained within them. Orthoimagery is considered the foundation layer in a framework of geographic information, and is the layer from which many other types of geographic information are extracted as well as registered. With the new high-resolution satellite imaging and other photogrammetric and remote sensing technologies, the AGDC Digital Orthoimagery Initiative is now economically feasible. We the undersigned, support the AGDC Initiative to produce statewide digital orthoimagery products that comply with NMA^c.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Brooks
National Director
ASPRS Alaska Region

Howard Earl
President
ASPRS Alaska Region

Robert Haus
Vice-President
ASPRS Alaska Region

Jeff Yates
2nd Vice-President
ASPRS Alaska Region

John Koltun
Region Director
ASPRS Alaska Region

Gregory Durocher
Treasurer/Secretary
ASPRS Alaska Region

Shari George
Region Director
ASPRS Alaska Region



URISA-Alaska Chapter
PMB 124
2440 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1185

**Urban and Regional
Information Systems
Association**

May 18, 2000

Gust C. Panos
Chairperson, Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West 7th Ave #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Dear Mr. Panos:

On behalf of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association of Alaska (URISA), I'm writing to lend our support to the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. It is my belief the Initiative would provide a much needed imagery base for statewide use in the public and private arenas. The use of current and reliable geographic information has become essential as our members employ Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into their daily business practices. The imagery proposed by the Initiative will provide the foundation from which many types of geographic information can be derived as well as registered to.

Available orthoimagery covering Alaska is not in a digital form, it is of poor quality, and out of date. This along with the U.S.G.S. Topographic maps which were made in the 1950s is about all that's available statewide. These two sources of geographic information are not adequate for Alaska's needs. New digital orthoimagery is essential for filling this gap in geographic information.

URISA commends the Alaska Geographic Data Committee for taking this first step and for having the foresight to see a need and then figure out how to fill in the gaps. URISA supports and endorses your continued efforts in this direction.

Sincerely,

John Sroufe
President, URISA

FAIRBANKS GOLD MINING, INC.

a subsidiary of

KINROSS GOLD CORP.

FORT KNOX MINE

March 9, 2001

Mr. Gust Panos
Digital Orthophoto Subcommittee
Alaska Geographic Data Committee
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

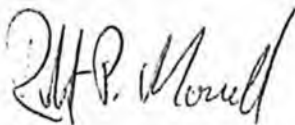
Dear Mr. Panos:

Fairbanks Gold would like to add its endorsement of the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative. Fairbanks Gold Mining Inc. and its parent, Kinross Gold, are involved in mining and gold exploration in the state of Alaska. I think the high quality orthoimagery and DEM coverage of Alaska would be of great benefit to the mineral exploration industry.

As an industry, we are relying more and more upon GIS compilations of available geological, geophysical, and land-status data for definition of exploration targets. Besides in-house data, we must incorporate data provided by various state and federal agencies. GIS databases provide the means for integrating all of the diverse sources of information. As a base, these compilations require the high quality DEM coverage that will be made available as a result of this initiative. The existing coverage is at too broad of a scale to be of much use in this effort.

I appreciate the efforts the committee has made towards promotion of the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative, which will be of use to such a broad spectrum of resource-based businesses, research groups, state and federal regulatory agencies, and native corporations.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Morrell
Senior Geologist

HJR

20

Du. ; Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4833
Fax (907) 465-4586
1-800-782-4833

Representative_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us



During Interim:
P.O. Box 673
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-3880
Fax (907) 442-3022

Alaska State Legislature
REPRESENTATIVE REGGIE JOULE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

"A Resolution Opposing Arctic marine shipment of nuclear waste between Russia and Japan."

Japanese companies are currently engaged in talks with Russia and France regarding the transport of vitrified high-level radioactive waste (VHLW) across the Arctic Ocean. Russian ice breaker ships would be utilized to clear the way for the vessels transporting the VHLW. While there are currently international standards for the transport of such waste, the U.S. Department of State admits current standards may not take in to account the exceptional factors present in the Arctic Ocean.

While talks regarding the Northeast route are reportedly in the early stages, we must take a strong stand against any such route immediately, to ensure the companies and governments involved are aware of our feelings as they move forward in negotiations. It is extremely important we do everything within our power to protect our waterways, and Alaska's heritage. The transportation of nuclear waste across such a vital fishery to Alaska is a threat not only to the subsistence lifestyle of those living in the area, but also to the overall health of Alaska's people and economy.

The fragile Bering Sea ecosystem is home to the most productive fishery in Alaska and one of the most productive in the North Pacific and the world. A spill of radioactive waste could have devastating effects on the subsistence lifestyle and the health of Alaskans living adjacent to the waterways.

In the unfortunate event of a spill, the potential exists for the ecosystem of the Arctic Ocean to be effected. The ecosystems of our waterways are not contained by man-made borders, and what happens in one part of the ecosystem may effect the whole. Although Alaskans have not been invited to participate in these discussions, it is important that the Legislature make clear its stand in opposition to the transportation of any radioactive nuclear waste across waterways upon which Alaskans so heavily rely.

While discussions of the Northeast route are in the early stages, it is important we take a stand on this important issue now.

Excerpts from....

The Nuclear Control Institute
Washington , DC

Preliminary Report for Comment

**The Sea Transport of Vitrified High-Level
Radioactive Wastes: Unresolved Safety Issues**

Edwin S. Lyman, PhD
Scientific Director
Nuclear Control Institute
December 1996

The Consequences of a Loss of VHLW Cargo at Sea

“One type of accident that was not considered in detail...was one in which the ship and its VHLW cargo is lost at sea. A closer examination of this accident scenario indicates that it can potentially result in severe health consequences for humans and for marine biota.”

However it is important to note that in the worst case, the loss of a damaged VHLW cargo in coastal waters can cause levels of chronic exposure to the public far in excess of those permitted by international standards. This fact was pointed out in an 1987 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Nuclear Energy Agency...study of...an undertaking that would require by necessity the large-scale transport of VHLW by sea. The analysis contained in this study led to the conclusion that ‘coastal [VHLW] transportation accidents are...unacceptable.’”

“If a damaged VHLW cask were lost at sea in shallow waters, contact of the stainless steel VHLW canisters with highly corrosive seawater would begin almost immediately. Because the Type 309 Stainless Steel has been extensively sensitized...it will undergo pitting and stress-corrosion cracking at an accelerated rate, exposing the glass underneath within a couple of months.”

“...at a March 1996 meeting at the International Maritime Organization, the question of salvaging potentially damaged, highly radioactive cargoes was discussed. It became clear in the course of the discussion that issues specific to this cargo that may affect the feasibility of salvage operations have not been carefully thought out.”

“...until the industry provides a credible salvage plan that addresses these contingencies, the public cannot give much credence to industry assurances that salvage will be carried out.”

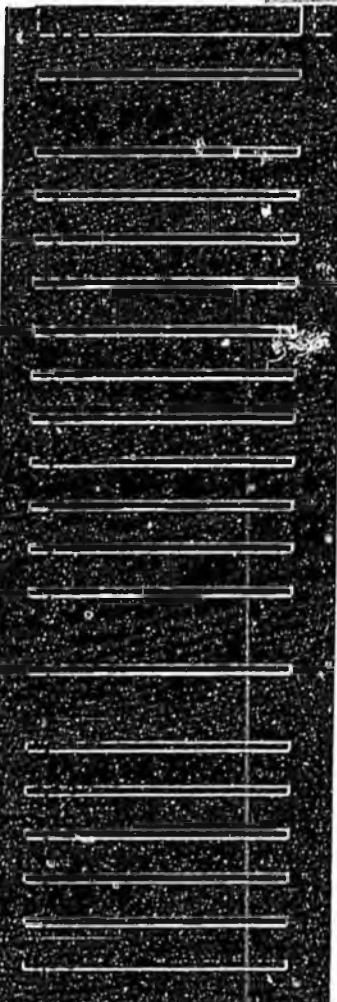
Conclusions

"The shipment of VHLW by sea is a practice with potentially catastrophic consequences for the inhabitants and economies of coastal states along the shipping route. In particular, the loss of a VHLW cargo ship in coastal waters, a credible event, can result in extensive radioactive contamination of the environment. However, the industry responsible for the shipments continues to refuse to provide to the public the technical basis for its assurances that it has reduced the probability of accidents to an acceptable level. In many cases, the technical basis does not exist. Given this situation, en-route states would be justified in not permitting the passage of these cargoes through their Exclusive Economic Zones."

Excerpted from a recent Department of State Background Paper regarding the potential transport of VHLW over the Northeast Route, en-route to Japan...

"...Specially-designed transport ships may have to be built...whether existing standards take sufficient account of possible exceptional factors in an Arctic environment could require review by the competent international bodies – the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)."

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Nuke plan ripped as 'crazy idea'

NORTH SLOPE: The borough's mayor opposes the shipment of waste over the North Pole.

The Associated Press
(Published January 29, 2001)

FAIRBANKS Arctic North Slope Borough Mayor George Ahmaogak thinks the idea of shipping nuclear waste across the top of the globe is another example of how the world takes liberties with the Arctic Ocean.

"I think it's a crazy idea," Ahmaogak said.

Russia and Japan are negotiating a deal to team up and deliver recycled nuclear waste from western Europe to Japan via the Northern Sea Route, which mostly skirts Russia but also passes close to several countries and the Alaska coastline.

Ahmaogak is not swayed by assurances from Japan that the radioactive material won't be a threat in the event of an accident.

"We've already got a high incidence of cancer that we're trying to isolate right now," he said. "We don't need any more contaminants."

Though news reports about the concept are just making the rounds, people who study the Arctic Ocean have heard about the possibility of such a plan for a couple of years. Lawson Brigham, retired U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker captain, heard of the concept in 1999 while attending the International Northern Sea Route Programme in Oslo, Norway.

This route is an extension of the former Soviet Union's Arctic transportation system.

"They're extremely capable mariners," Brigham told the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in a phone interview from his California home. The Northern route "has been open since '91, so why wouldn't the Russians want this?"

Greenpeace has sent releases to members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation and the state's media outlets.

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A weekly Internet magazine full of new ideas and products for the future.

"It is difficult to say who is crazier: those who propose such a scheme or those who would agree to it," Greenpeace spokesman Tobias Muenchmeyer said in the release. "Both must be mad. The last thing the fragile Arctic needs is more nuclear contamination."

The Japanese Kyodo news service reported that the country's nuclear industry began negotiations with the Russian government after opposition toward shipping the waste along the major routes in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. The irradiated fuel is reprocessed at plants in France and Britain, then shipped to Japan.

The resulting glasslike material is highly radioactive. Proponents say when properly shielded it does not do much harm to the surrounding environment.

Kyodo reported that a test shipment will be conducted this year and that the first full nuclear transport is scheduled for 2002. Japan relies almost exclusively on nuclear power. The reprocessed fuel will power as many as 18 Japanese reactors by 2010.

The Arctic has been a logical route to the Japanese for more than a decade. In 1987, they wanted to fly nuclear fuel over the pole from Europe, using Alaska as a potential landing zone in case of emergency. Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, fought the concept and got it banned.

Murkowski said he isn't yet concerned about the proposed shipments.

"So far we have yet to see any sign of activity moving through that sea route," Murkowski said, referring to nuclear shipments.

It would be difficult to stop such shipments even if Alaska or the U.S. did have objections, he said. Beyond three miles, it's open ocean where ships from any country have freedom to sail.

Murkowski, who heads the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, isn't concerned about potential disasters in the Arctic. The glassified material is inert and its radiation won't spread if submerged in the ocean, according to information from Murkowski's aides.

Those kinds of reassurances don't do much for people like Ahmaogak. The Arctic Ocean is vital to the Native subsistence lifestyle. In the past half a century, he said, North Slope residents have watched their environment change because of global warming.

The sea ice, a launching platform for hunters, is disappearing.

"It's changed a lot," Ahmaogak said. "The ocean current has changed. We're seeing species we've never seen before. We're seeing porpoises, Greenland sharks, silver salmon, king salmon. We've never seen these things before."

Please tell us your thoughts about this topic.

Your name:

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Anchorage Daily News

Arctic nuclear shipments just an idea, Powell says

LETTER: Secretary addresses concerns about Japan's plans.

By Don Hunter

Anchorage Daily News

(Published March 20, 2001)

Talk about shipping nuclear materials through the Arctic Ocean is just an idea at this point and "clearly years away" from fruition, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says in a letter to Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles.

Knowles spokesman Bob King said Monday the governor is relieved to learn that "this is just in the early conceptual stages, where hopefully it can be quashed."

"Our concerns are still there," King said.

Knowles wrote to Powell and other officials in the United States and the Russian province of Chukotka last month after reports about the discussions between Russian shippers and Japanese power companies appeared in newspapers in the United States, Europe and Russia. According to the news accounts, Russian shippers have offered to use icebreakers to escort freighters carrying nuclear materials, bound from England and France to Japan, via a Northeast Passage along Russia's Arctic Coast.

Echoing concerns voiced by North Slope Borough Mayor George Ahmaogak, Knowles warned that spills of radioactive substances into the polar maritime environmental could have disastrous consequences. "Any accidental release of this material could have a devastating effect on the fragile Arctic environment and the health and welfare of the people who live there," Knowles said.

In his response, received by the governor's office last week, Powell said the talks so far appear to be limited to private interests.

"The Government of Japan has told us informally that, while it has heard of the preliminary discussions within the industry, it has never been consulted by the industry, and that any decision . . . to adopt such a route would require concurrence by the Japanese government," Powell's letter says.

"We have no reason to believe that any decisions on adopting an Arctic route are imminent."

Japan uses nuclear fuel to power some utilities and sends spent fuel to reactors in France and Britain for reprocessing. The new fuel and wastes from the reprocessing are returned to Japan. The exchange has been going on for about a decade, with freighters transiting traditional routes around South Africa and South America, but resistance has been growing among nations near those shipping lanes.

In his letter, Powell says the State Department will monitor the progress of the talks.

"If it happens at all, any use of the Northeast Passage route for shipments of radioactive nuclear waste is clearly years away, given the preliminary nature of the industry discussions," Powell says. "If this does become a matter of consultation between governments, we will be in contact to make sure the Department is able to represent the concerns you expressed effectively.

"In any case, we would expect, and seek to ensure, that sea shipments of radioactive materials over any route would comply with relevant international rules and standards, and that they would be carried out safely and without significant risk to the environment."

Reporter Don Hunter can be reached at dhunter@adn.com or 257-4349.

Close Window

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HJR

26

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Gary Stevens

SPONSOR STATEMENT – HJR 26

"Requesting the National Marine Fisheries Service to relocate the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Steller sea lion research team to Alaska"

This resolution requests the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to relocate the research team that has been assigned to study the decline of the Steller sea lion, to Alaska, where the actual research is being conducted.

There are facilities located here in Alaska that have the space available to accommodate the research team and with the recent travel restrictions that have been placed on the NMFS staff, it just makes sense to have the team located here in Alaska.

By sending this resolution, it is my hope that the National Marine Fisheries Service will honor this request, and that those Alaskans who are directly affected by the status of the endangered western Alaska Steller sea lion will have local access to the personnel conducting this critical research.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HJR 26
 (H) Publish Date: 4/2/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: none
 Title: HJR26: STELLER SEA LION RESEARCH BRU: _____
TEAM TO ALASKA Component: _____
 Sponsor: Rep. Stevens _____
 Requester: House Resources Committee Component Number: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
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						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by: House Resources Committee Phone (907) 465-6890

Representative Drew Scalzi Date 4/18/01
Committee Chair

HJR

29

Bill History/Action Display



BILL: HJR 29

SHORT TITLE: CONST AM: SUBSISTENCE FISHING AND HUNTING

BILL VERSION:

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S)DYSON

CURRENT STATUS: (H) RES

STATUS DATE: 01/14/02

THEN JUD, FIN

HEARING: (H) RES Mar 27 1:00 PM CAPITOL 124 TELECONFERENCE

TITLE: Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife.

Full Text

No Fiscal Notes Available

Committee Action with Bill History

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
01/14/02	<u>1946</u>	(H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/4/02
01/14/02	<u>1946</u>	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/14/02	<u>1946</u>	(H) RES, JUD, FIN
01/14/02	<u>1946</u>	(H) REFERRED TO RESOURCES

Similar Subject Match or Exact Subject Match
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
FISH & GAME (BOTH)
SUBSISTENCE

Bill Root: Display Bill Root



TO REPORT PROBLEMS WITH BASIS INQUIRY

LIVE KTOO STREAMS 

Return to Basis Main Menu (22 Legislature)

Return to Legislature Home Page



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REPRESENTATIVE FRED DYSON

HJR 29

SPONSOR STATEMENT

A Constitutional amendment to protect Subsistence Activities for all Alaskans

Updated: March 22, 2002

Contact: Representative Fred Dyson's office, (907) 465-2199

A workable solution to Alaska's subsistence dilemma has been presented to us some time ago, and has lain buried in the tailing piles of previous attempts to solve this vexing and divisive issue.

Former legislator, Mark Hanley, said three years ago that the Clinton/Knowles/Babbit Subsistence Solution (C/K/BS) did not protect many rural subsistence users in that towns like Barrow, Dillingham, and Bethel are close to being ruled "Urban" under Federal guidelines. In addition, the C/K/BS provides almost nothing for "urban" natives or other urban Alaskans. To my knowledge no one followed up on this observation. Last year I introduced HJR 11 to amend our State Constitution to make it clear that Alaskan's believe that "in times of shortages, the highest and best use of fish and wildlife resources is real subsistence."

When Former Governor Jay Hammond suggested in August of this past year that the rural preference Federal requirement could be met by giving "local" people the subsistence priority during times of shortage it seemed like a genius solution. I talked to several native leaders and friends and they liked it too. This idea is essentially the same as the Hickel commission came up with a decade ago.

I spent an afternoon visiting with Gov. Hammond about this and he recommended inserting the Hanley/ Hammond concept into a new resolution. HJR29, the Hammond/Hickel/Hanley Subsistence Solution, is the result.

WHY IT SHOULD WORK

The new leadership in the Department of the Interior (DOI) should be able to accept and defend the concept that this solution allows rural people to have the priority subsistence access to fish and game IN THEIR AREA. If the DOI agrees, they should then stop and reverse the Federal take-over of our game management.

Our congressional delegation should be in a much better position to negotiate changes to ANILCA definitions and provisions because

- E-mail -
Representative_Fred_Dyson
@Legis.state.ak.us

- Internet -
<http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Alaskans will have demonstrated their support of authentic subsistence uses of fish and game by putting a very high priority on subsistence in our most fundamental document, our constitution.

Alaskan native elders and activists should be supportive because the Hammond/Hickel/Hanley Subsistence Solution, (3H2S? ☺) is a significant NET GAIN in subsistence protection in that it protects subsistence users near the larger bush communities and allows for urban natives to practice subsistence if they have a demonstrable historic pattern of doing so. Finally the Eklutna people in my district will no longer be disqualified from subsistence fishing in their own 1000 year old fish camp. The plight of the Eklutna people is an absurd example of how flawed the C/K/BS allocation of subsistence rights is.

Urban, Non Native, and Constitutional protection enthusiasts like myself, should be comforted by a constitutional amendment that does not do great damage to our precious "Equal access, Equal protection" clauses in our State Constitution.

PROBLEMS AND UNRESOLVED ISSUES

While something like the Hammond/Hickel/Hanley Subsistence Solution (HJR 29) should get us started on solving this Gordian knot that is tearing parts of the Alaskan population apart, it does not solve all potential problems.

Commercial fishing interests will be concerned that the primacy of the subsistence users under this proposal might mean that all commercial fishing would be shut down until the needs and demands of the last subsistence user on the last creek in a drainage was met. This is a valid concern. My position is that that this very real problem is *better dealt with under Alaskan Management* than by the Federal Government.

This constitutional amendment will not solve the problems of inadequate definitions of "subsistence" and "customary and traditional" under ANILCA. Once again, with the 3H2S constitutional amendment in place, our powerful congressional delegation should be in an excellent position to negotiate more clear and fair ANILCA definitions. With our own Drue Pearce and Cam Tooley as advisors, Gail Norton of the Department of Interior should be in a position to facilitate a workable solution.

This solution also does not guarantee that Alaska's administration of subsistence will be out from under Federal Court Jurisdiction or that the issue of who has control over "submerged lands" and "reserved water rights" will be rectified.

These issues will probably be resolved in subsequent court decisions. BUT... HJR 29 IMPLEMENTING THE HAMMOND/HICKEL/HANLEY SUBSISTENCE SOLUTION GETS US STARTED. IF THE LEGISLATURE PUTS SOMETHING LIKE THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON THE BALLOT, I AM CONFIDENT THE ALASKA PEOPLE WILL PASS IT OVERWHELMINGLY. WITH THE STATE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE BEHIND US, WE CAN SIT DOWN TOGETHER TO MAKE AUTHENTIC SUBSISTENCE RIGHTS WORK FOR EVERY ALASKAN.

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Fred Dyson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 28, 2001

CONTACT: Rep. Fred Dyson: 694-6683

Rep. Dyson Offers Subsistence Solution

Ensures Knowles Team Can Consider Hammond, Hickel, Hanley Ideas

(ANCHORAGE) – Rep. Fred Dyson (R-Eagle River) today proposed a constitutional amendment addressing subsistence rights for both urban and rural Alaskans, and called on the Knowles Administration's subsistence task force to consider the proposal as it drafts an amendment for a likely special legislative session.

"Some of Alaska's best minds have been grappling with the subsistence dilemma for years, and previous governors have already produced solid options that deserve attention," said Dyson. "My amendment echoes language proposed by Jay Hammond, Wally Hickel and former Rep. Mark Hanley, and I want Knowles' task force to consider their ideas, as well."

The subsistence preference Dyson lays out in his proposed amendment would kick in whenever the harvestable surplus of fish or game in a game management unit (GMU) was less than the five-year average subsistence harvest. At that point, subsistence would become the highest-priority use, and subsistence priority would be allotted to those living within that GMU and to those who could show a five-year history of using or depending on the resource in that area.

"The genius of this approach is that it makes subsistence uses of wild resources the 'highest and best use' during times of shortage, and it gives the people the priority in their local area," Dyson said. "This solution is similar in concept to proposals made by the Hickel Commission a decade ago, by Mark Hanley three years ago, and by Jay Hammond in the Daily News in August."

Dyson said his amendment addresses Native concerns by enhancing and protecting local subsistence rights in urban and rural areas alike, and by eliminating the risk that subsistence rights would erode away from growing communities like Barrow or Bethel under a strictly "rural" subsistence preference. It should also reassure urban, non-Native residents and civil liberties advocates who value the Alaska Constitution's equal protection and equal access guarantees, which were threatened under efforts by Knowles and former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to change state law to match federal mandate.

"By meeting the technical rural preference requirements in the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act, this amendment would also make it easier for Alaska's Congressional delegation to win the minor changes in ANILCA we need to bring a final solution to one of Alaska's most divisive and pressing issues," Dyson said. "I hope that Governor Knowles will see the benefit of having his people consider this amendment as they draft their language."

Knowles has charged a hand-picked, 11-member panel with drafting a rural priority amendment that he will present to the Legislature in a special subsistence session he plans to call this fall.

###

HJR

32

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HJR 32
 (H) Publish Date: 3/27/02

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title Federal Place Names BRU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Representative Dyson Component No. _____
 Requester _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
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						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Bill Lawrence staff Phone _____
 Division House Community and Regional Affairs Committee Date/Time 3/26/02 5:59 PM
 Approved by: Representative Carl Morgan Date 3/26/02
 Agency Co-chair, House Community and Regional Affairs

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE DYSON

Introduced: 1/22/02

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the United States Board on Geographic Names to adopt place name
2 changes proposed by the Alaska Historical Commission.

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** Alaskans have lived in the land now known as Alaska for at least 10,000
5 years and perhaps as many as 30,000 years; and

6 **WHEREAS** strangers from other lands have arbitrarily named Alaska geographic
7 features, disregarding the names commonly used by Alaska Native peoples; and

8 **WHEREAS** some of the names given to geographic features in Alaska do not have a
9 direct connection with Alaska or its peoples, but instead reflect a stranger's desire to honor a
10 patron, gain favor with a political figure, or honor a college; and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska's Native peoples are endeavoring to preserve as much Native
12 culture and heritage as possible; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska historians are trying to preserve Alaska's known history; and

14 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of the Interior is actively collecting and
15 recording original names from Alaska Native elders and from pioneers; and

16 **WHEREAS** Alaskans desire to honor their Native citizens and traditions and Alaska's

1 pioneers;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United
3 States Department of the Interior to adopt policies for the United States Board on Geographic
4 Names that would allow and encourage the board to adopt place name changes proposed by
5 the Alaska Historical Commission.

6 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gale Norton, United States
7 Secretary of the Interior; Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic
8 Names; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
9 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
10 delegation in Congress.