

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Miller moved and asked unanimous consent that the House adjourn until 10:00 a.m., February 15, 1978. There being no objection, the House adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Irene Cashen
Chief Clerk

SENATE & HOUSE JOINT
JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT

No. 4

Tuesday

February 14, 1978

ADDRESS BY SENATOR TED STEVENS
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

JUNEAU, ALASKA
FEBRUARY 14, 1978

THIS IS MY TENTH REPORT TO THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE. A FULL DECADE HAS PASSED SINCE THAT 1969 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WHEN I FIRST RETURNED BY INVITATION TO SPEAK BEFORE YOU RATHER THAN BY RIGHT AS ONE OF YOU.

THIS YEAR MARKS MORE THAN A PERSONAL MILESTONE...IT IS A WATERSHED YEAR FOR ALASKA. THIS YEAR, CONGRESS IS MANDATED TO ACT ON THE D-2 ISSUE...THE MOST IMPORTANT ALASKAN ISSUE SINCE STATEHOOD.

THUS, THIS IS THE APPROPRIATE OCCASION FOR A FULL ACCOUNTING... FOR REVIEWING THE BALANCE SHEET OF OUR PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS... TO PROVIDE PERSPECTIVE ON HOW FAR WE HAVE COME AND FOCUS ON WHERE WE MUST GO, WHAT WE MUST DO TO CONSERVE, CONSOLIDATE AND CAPITALIZE ON ALL OUR PAST GAINS.

OBVIOUSLY, THERE IS AN URGENCY TO OUR ACTIONS. WE CONFRONT OUR MOST FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE SINCE THE STATEHOOD BATTLE. IF WE ARE TO RESOLVE THE D-2 QUESTION IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALASKANS AND ALL AMERICANS, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE PROFOUND CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE...NOT ONLY HERE...BUT IN THE COMPOSITION OF CONGRESS AND IN THE PREVAILING ATTITUDE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TOWARD ALASKA. WE MUST REALISTICALLY AND DISPASSIONATELY REEVALUATE OUR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES SO THAT WE MAY DEVELOP A SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY TO CONVINCE CONGRESS THAT THE ALASKAN PROPOSAL REPRESENTS THE MOST REASONABLE, RESPONSIBLE AND EQUITABLE RESOLUTION OF THE D-2 ISSUE.

FIRST, LET US APPRAISE OUR ASSETS. WE HAVE MADE GREAT PROGRESS SINCE STATEHOOD. WE HAVE GROWN IN POPULATION AND PER CAPITA INCOME. WE ARE JUST BEGINNING TO TAP THE VAST POTENTIAL OF OUR PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES. WE HAVE INITIATED PROGRAMS NECESSARY TO PROSPER FROM AND REPLENISH OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCES. WE HAVE STEADILY EXTENDED BOTH THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF OUR PUBLIC SERVICES.

ALL THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH TEAMWORK BETWEEN ALASKA'S STATE GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON. YOUR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS, RESPONSIBLE LEGISLATION AND STEADFAST COOPERATION HAVE BEEN INTEGRAL TO OUR SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND FUNDING TO ADVANCE ALASKA'S INTERESTS.

THE LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IS LONG.

- ALASKA'S FISHING INDUSTRY HAS ONLY BEGUN TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF THE 200-MILE LIMIT LEGISLATION. WITH ITS \$22 MILLION ENFORCEMENT APPROPRIATION, THE COAST GUARD HAS INITIATED A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM. ALASKA WILL ALSO GAIN FROM THE OVER \$4 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANTS FOR HATCHERIES, FISHWAYS AND RESEARCH. THE NEW POTENTIAL IS ALREADY APPARENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW VESSELS CAPABLE OF MULTI-SEASON HARVESTING AND THE ALASKAN POLLOCK POTENTIAL--WITH ITS ONE MILLION METRIC TON CATCH CAPABILITY SHOULD STIMULATE SHORE-BASED DEVELOPMENT.

- THE NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT WAS PASSED AND IMPROVED THROUGH OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS AND THE KLUKWAN BILL. IN TOTAL, OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS ALONE, ALASKA'S NATIVE PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED OVER \$525 MILLION IN FEDERAL AID TO IMPROVE VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT OF COMMUNITY LIFE... HEALTH, HOUSING, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.
- ENACTMENT OF THE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAM (ADAP) HAS RESULTED IN SOME \$58 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE STATE'S AIRPORT FACILITIES. FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR WE WILL RECEIVE \$28 MILLION FOR CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS PLUS \$64.8 MILLION FOR THE OPERATION OF OUR AIRPORTS. IN ADDITION, SPECIAL PROVISIONS WERE MADE TO PERMIT AIR TRANSPORT OF HAZARDOUS CARGO TO ALASKA'S REMOTE VILLAGES AS PART OF THE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS AND PROVISIONS WILL PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO MAINTAIN AND HOPEFULLY IMPROVE AIR CARRIER SERVICE TO OUR ISOLATED COMMUNITIES UNDER THE AIRLINE REGULATORY REFORM LEGISLATION NOW PENDING IN THE SENATE.
- POSTAL SERVICE TO BUSH COMMUNITIES HAS BEEN IMPROVED... AND WHILE POSTAL OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH 48 ARE BEING CURTAILED...WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP ALASKAN ROUTES AND FACILITIES OPEN.
- OVER \$94 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR HYDROELECTRIC POWER, HARBOR AND NAVIGATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE LAST THREE FISCAL YEARS...WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$33 MILLION REQUESTED FOR THE CHENA RIVER LAKES CONSTRUCTION THIS YEAR.
- OUR STATE'S TIMBER INDUSTRY IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALASKAN ECONOMY DESPITE EXTENSIVE REGULATION, DECLINING PRICES AND HEAVY COMPETITION. PASSAGE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT SHOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE EFFICIENCY IN OPERATIONS AND EQUITY AND PROFIT IN TIMBER SALES PROCEDURES.

THE POINT OF THIS LITANY OF FEDERAL ACTION IS THAT ALASKA'S INTERESTS HAVE NOT BEEN NEGLECTED BY CONGRESS. TO THE CONTRARY, OUR VOICES HAVE BEEN HEARD; OUR NEEDS RECOGNIZED. WHILE WE HAVE SUFFERED REVERSES...MOST NOTABLY, THE UNFAIR LIMIT ON SUBSISTENCE TAKING OF THE BOWHEAD WHALE...WASHINGTON'S RESPONSES TO MOST OF OUR NEEDS HAVE BEEN NOTABLE.

HOWEVER, IT IS THE VERY FACT THAT WE HAVE WON SO MANY BATTLES THAT PLACES US IN DANGER OF LOSING THE NEXT WAR. HAVING COVERED THE POSITIVE SIDE...I MUST WITH EQUAL CANDOR DISCUSS THE LIABILITIES ON OUR LEUGER WHICH MAY NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE D-2 CONTROVERSY.

FIRST, THE COMPOSITION OF CONGRESS HAS ALMOST TOTALLY CHANGED OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES. OF THE 96 SENATORS, WHO IN 1958 VOTED ON ALASKA'S STATEHOOD, ONLY 14 REMAIN WHO REMEMBER THE COMMITMENTS MADE AT THAT TIME. TWO OF THESE FOURTEEN WILL RETIRE THIS YEAR. THAT MEANS WHEN THE 96TH CONGRESS CONVENES IN JANUARY 1979, NO MORE THAN 12 PERCENT (AND MAYBE LESS) OF THE U.S. SENATE WILL HAVE ANY SENSE OF THE ORIGINAL OBLIGATION TO ALASKA.

THE SITUATION ON THE HOUSE SIDE IS IDENTICAL. ONLY 45 OUT OF 455 REPRESENTATIVES REMAIN FROM 1958...AND AT LEAST 10 OF THESE HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR RETIREMENT. SO BARELY 10 PERCENT OF THE HOUSE IN THE NEXT CONGRESS WILL HAVE ANY CONCEPT OF THE TERMS OF OUR STATEHOOD.

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, OF COURSE, IS NEW...UNFAMILIAR WITH THE WAYS OF WASHINGTON AND CONGRESS...MUCH LESS ALASKA. FURTHER, THE FOUR PREVIOUS PRESIDENTS HAD BEEN IN CONGRESS AND SUPPORTED ALASKA'S ADMISSION TO THE UNION. THIS PRESIDENT HAS NO SUCH BACKGROUND. IN FAIRNESS, I MUST NOTE, PRESIDENT CARTER AND KEY MEMBERS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ACCESSIBLE TO ME...NOT JUST ON NATIONAL ISSUES BUT ALSO THOSE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO ALASKA.

SO...CLEARLY...OUR FIRST LIABILITY IS A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AND HISTORIC COMMITMENT AMONG MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

SECOND, WE FACE A WELL-ORGANIZED, WELL-FINANCED EXTREME ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY WHICH HAS ALREADY LAUNCHED A SOPHISTICATED PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE CONGRESS. A RECENT EXAMPLE WAS A FULL-PAGE AD PLACED IN THE WASHINGTON POST AND SEVERAL OTHER EAST COAST OR NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS. CALLING THEMSELVES "THE AMERICANS FOR ALASKA COMMITTEE"...THIS COSTLY, IMPRESSIVE AD CARRIED THE NAMES OF OVER 50 PRESTIGIOUS CITIZENS--THEIR NAMES WERE EASILY RECOGNIZABLE AND REPRESENTATIVE OF VARIOUS RESPECTED SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY. THE LIST INCLUDED VERNON JORDAN OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE; NANCY KISSINGER, WIFE OF OUR FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE; LAURENCE ROCKEFELLER AND LEONARD FIRESTONE REPRESENTING HIGH FINANCE AND BIG BUSINESS; GENERAL MATTHEW RIDGWAY AND ADMIRAL ELMO ZUMWALT FROM THE MILITARY.

THIS HIGHLY PRIVILEGED, DISTINGUISHED GROUP MAY CONSIDER THEMSELVES "AMERICANS FOR ALASKA"...BUT THEY DON'T REPRESENT THE AVERAGE AMERICAN. THEY DON'T REPRESENT "ALASKANS FOR ALASKA" OR..."ALASKANS FOR AMERICA" EITHER!

YET THIS IS JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE PRESSURE WE FACE FROM THE SOUTH 48'S SELF-PROCLAIMED EXPERTS ON ALASKAN ECOLOGY AS CONGRESS BEGINS ITS D-2 DELIBERATIONS.

THIRD...AND MOST DISTURBING...IS AN INCREASING, AMORPHOUS ANIMOSITY TOWARD ALASKANS AS THE BLUE-EYED ARABS OF THE NORTH, WHO HOLD VITAL RESOURCES HOSTAGE FOR HAND-OUTS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITY. REGARDLESS OF THE FACTS, THE PREVAILING ATTITUDE IS THAT FOR YEARS...FIRST AS A TERRITORY, THEN AS A FLEDGLING STATE...THE U.S. TAXPAYER TOOK CARE OF ALASKA. BUT NOW THE ROLES ARE REVERSED AND THEY BELIEVE ALASKA IS NOT REPAYING ITS DEBT.

THESE ARE THE PRINCIPAL LIABILITIES WE MUST OVERCOME. AND WHILE EACH LARGELY INVOLVES IMAGE RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE... SYSTEMATIC, SPECIFIC ACTION IS IMPERATIVE TO CORRECT THE SITUATION. CONSEQUENTLY, I SUBMIT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION SOME SUGGESTIONS TO CLARIFY MISCONCEPTIONS, CONVINCE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO SUPPORT OUR POSITIONS...AND SHARE IN ALASKA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

WE MUST EDUCATE CONGRESS ABOUT ALASKA PRIOR TO THE D-2 VOTE... AND THE BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION IS TO BRING AS MANY SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO ALASKA AS POSSIBLE. SEEING IS BELIEVING. ONCE THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED ALASKA, THEY WILL BECOME OUR ADVOCATES.

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS I HAVE BROUGHT SEVERAL SMALL SENATE DELEGATIONS TO ALASKA. THE SCHEDULES COMBINED BUSINESS AND RECREATION SO WE WERE ABLE TO EXPOSE THEM TO ALASKA'S OUTDOOR LIFE. INSTANCES HAVE ARISEN WHERE THE VOICES OF THESE MEN SAYING: "YES, THAT'S RIGHT--I'VE BEEN THERE!" HAVE BEEN THE DECIDING FACTOR IN SWINGING A VOTE OUR WAY. IT HAS HAPPENED AND IT CAN HAPPEN AGAIN WHEN WE MOST NEED IT.

RIGHT NOW, 90 PERCENT OF CONGRESS HAS NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF ALASKA. IT'S ONLY OUR WORD VERSUS THAT OF POWERFUL, PRESTIGIOUS NATIONWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. THE BEST INVESTMENT THE STATE CAN MAKE IS SPONSORING CONGRESSIONAL FACT-FINDING TRIPS TO ALASKA.

WE MUST ALSO ENCOURAGE ALASKAN CITIZENS TO MOUNT A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER THAT OF THE EXTREME ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY. WE MUST TELL AND SELL THE TRUE STORY ABOUT ALASKA'S D-2 PROPOSAL. WE ARE NOT PROPOSING TO DESECRATE THE ENVIRONMENT. NO OTHER STATE HAS DEDICATED SO MUCH LAND TO WILDERNESS. NO OTHER CITIZENS ARE SO PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. OUR PROPOSAL DOES PROTECT ALASKA'S FUTURE OPTIONS; IT PERMITS ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND USE OF THOSE RESOURCES ESSENTIAL TO THE

NATIONAL ECONOMY AND NATIONAL SECURITY...AND ALLOCATES FUNDS FROM ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT TO PURCHASE PARK AND WILDERNESS AREAS IN THE "LOWER 48", WHICH WILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FAMILY WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO VISIT ALASKA.

OURS IS A REASONABLE AND RESPONSIBLE, SOUND AND SENSIBLE PROPOSAL. THE KEY IS TO EXPLAIN IT WITH THE SAME SOPHISTICATED PUBLIC RELATION TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED BY THE OPPOSITION. I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF "LOWER 48" CITIZENS FULLY UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION, THEY WILL BRING CONSTITUENT PRESSURE ON THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT OUR D-2 PROPOSAL.

WE MUST ADOPT A STATE ECONOMIC POLICY WHICH EMPHASIZES STABILITY AND FAIRNESS. ALASKA HAS MANY RESOURCES TO SUPPLY TO THE NATION AND THOSE RESOURCES CAN BE SUPPLIED IN A WAY WHICH BENEFITS ALASKA AS WELL. A RESPONSIBLE, STABLE REGULATORY AND TAX SYSTEM WILL PERMIT COMPANIES TO MAKE LONG-TERM PLANS AND THAT WILL ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN US IN BUILDING A DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY.

WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE INTEND TO USE OUR NATURAL GAS IN ALASKA BEFORE THE DESIGN OF THE ALCAN LINE IS COMPLETED. OUR ROYALTY GAS SHOULD SERVE AS THE FOUNDATION FOR A FULL "ADDED VALUE" INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. WE CAN DIVERSIFY ALASKA'S ECONOMY, CREATE PERMANENT JOBS AND DEPENDABLE REVENUES WITHOUT INCREASING STATE RESOURCE TAXES OR CHARGES. A DECLARED "ADDED VALUE" ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY WILL DOCUMENT ALASKA'S INTENTION TO PROFIT FROM OUR RESOURCES THROUGH EARNED EFFORT IN-STATE RATHER THAN BY EXPLOITATION THROUGH EXPORT OUT-OF-STATE.

WE HAVE TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO SEE THAT THE GASLINE IS BUILT. OUR NATURAL GAS AT PRUDHOE BAY ISN'T WORTH MUCH TO US UNTIL THE LINE IS COMPLETED, THE GAS IS FLOWING AND WE CAN START USING GAS IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRIES; AND WE CAN START COLLECTING GAS-RELATED REVENUES. ONE THING WE COULD DO TO HELP IS GET INVOLVED IN THE FINANCING OF THE GASLINE.

NORTHWEST AND ITS FINANCIAL ADVISORS RECENTLY OUTLINED TO ME A PROPOSAL IN WHICH THEY RECOMMEND THE STATE PARTICIPATE THROUGH COMMITMENT OF THE REVENUES THE STATE WILL RECEIVE FROM ROYALTIES AND TAXES ON THE GAS. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT SEEN THE DETAILS, THIS DOES APPEAR TO BE A CONCEPT WORTH EXPLORING. THE FINAL DECISION CONCERNING STATE PARTICIPATION IS OBVIOUSLY ONE FOR THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE TO MAKE. THIS IS NECESSARILY SO BECAUSE OF THE OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED... INCLUDING TAKE-OFFS FOR THE GAS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE USE OF STATE LANDS. AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON MY CONCERN IS ENSURING THAT WE DO NOT OVERCOMMIT OIL AND GENERAL FUND REVENUES WHICH WE HAVE INDICATED ARE AVAILABLE TO GUARANTEE PROJECTS SUCH AS THE SUSITNA DAMS AND THE PERMANENT FUND.

WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE AND RESERVE FUNDS TO OFFSET DECREASED FEDERAL SPENDING IN CERTAIN AREAS. ONCE ALASKA'S NATIVE CLAIMS ARE FULLY SETTLED AND PIPELINE REVENUES PROVIDE A STEADY SOURCE OF INCOME, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL INEVITABLY REDUCE ITS LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION... PARTICULARLY IN HUMAN SERVICE AREAS WHERE POPULATION AND "NEED" ARE FACTORED INTO THE EQUATION.

BY INITIATING POLICIES NOW TO PROMOTE A DIVERSIFIED "VALUE ADDED" ECONOMY AND NOT OVERCOMMITTING PROJECTED FUTURE REVENUES, WE WILL DEMONSTRATE THE STABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND MATURITY TO ATTRACT PRIVATE CAPITAL.

THE SUGGESTIONS THAT I MAKE TODAY REPRESENT PRAGMATIC STEPS TO ENCOURAGE ENACTMENT OF OUR D-2 PROPOSAL BY CONGRESS; TO CORRECT OUR IMAGE IN THE EYES OF OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN; TO INCREASE THE CHANCE OF OUTSIDE INVESTMENT IN A DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY FOR ALASKA. THESE STEPS WILL CARRY OUR MESSAGE TO CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE...ALASKA HAS COME OF AGE. WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED OUR COMPETENCE TO BE FULL, FAIR, RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS IN MANAGING THE FUTURE OF THE UNION.

FINALLY, LET ME CONCLUDE BY SAYING THAT I KNOW THIS ADDRESS HAS FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON ALASKAN ISSUES AT THE EXPENSE OF NATIONAL ISSUES. THESE WERE DELIBERATELY DELETED SO I COULD GIVE FULL ATTENTION TO ACTIONS I FEEL WE SHOULD TAKE TO OVERCOME ATTITUDES OBSTRUCTING OUR D-2 PROPOSAL. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ON NATIONAL ISSUES AND FOREIGN POLICY, I'LL TRY TO ANSWER THEM. OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS, I HAVE VISITED PANAMA, INDIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND SEVERAL NATO NATIONS...AND AM WILLING TO SHARE MY IMPRESSIONS WITH YOU.

WE SHARE TOGETHER IN THE YEAR AHEAD TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE AND RESPONSIBILITY...FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR ACTIONS WILL NOT ONLY AFFECT ALASKA'S BUT ALL AMERICA'S FUTURE.

ALASKA IS LITERALLY AMERICA'S LAST FRONTIER AND LAST BASTION OF FREEDOM. OUR WILDERNESS AFFORDS THE LAST PLACE WHERE A HUMAN CAN EXERCISE HIS MOST FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT...TO BE LEFT ALONE, TO ESCAPE CIVILIZATION, TO BE FREE.

THOSE WHO WOULD LOCK UP ALASKA WOULD LOCK UP THE HUMAN SPIRIT. IN HIS PORTRAIT OF ALASKA, COMING INTO THE COUNTRY, JOHN MCPHEE WROTE OF THIS DRIVING FORCE TO BE FREE AND THE TRAGIC IMPLICATIONS OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS ON THE ALASKAN LIFESTYLE.

"IT IS ONE OF THE IRONIES OF ALASKA THAT IN THE MIDST OF THIS TREMENDOUS WILDERNESS, PEOPLE CONSIDER THEMSELVES FORTUNATE TO HAVE (ANYWHERE AT ALL) A FIFTY-BY-HUNDRED-FOOT LOT THEY CAN CALL THEIR OWN...WHAT THE LAW NOW CALLS FOR IS THE REMOVAL OF THE LAST PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE THE PIONEER IMPULSE CAN LEAP FROM CONFINEMENT. IT IS IN THE CHARACTER OF THE IMPULSE (TO) LEAP ANYWAY...(THE) MOMENTUM IS TOO GREAT TO BE INTERRUPTED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS."

LET US DEVOTE ALL OUR ENERGIES IN THE YEAR AHEAD TO PROTECT AMERICA'S LAST BASTION OF FREEDOM FROM AN ILL-CONSIDERED ACT OF CONGRESS. LET US WORK TOGETHER TO PRESERVE THE PIONEER IMPULSE... SO THAT ALASKA'S WILDERNESS MAY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HABITAT FOR ALL SPECIES...INCLUDING THE HUMAN SPIRIT.