

Mike Pool, Acting Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street N.W., RM. 5665
Washington, D.C. 20240

January 10, 2013

Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

David Hayes, Deputy Undersecretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Director Pool,

In an October 15, 2010 letter to me (attached), Director Abbey acknowledged that the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act of 2004 required Sealaska Corporation to submit its remaining land selections to BLM by June 10, 2008. He mentioned that Sealaska complied with the deadline for submission, but requested BLM delay conveyance pending the outcome of S 881 and HR 2099.

For two years and a half years, BLM has delayed acting on our request to finalize conveyance. Congress has not acted on the pending legislation in over four years. In fact, similar Sealaska legislation has failed for the last three sessions of Congress, including the most recent versions, S 730 and HR 1408.

It is now four and a half years since Sealaska filed its final, irrevocable selections.

Since S 730 never even left the Senate Energy Committee and neither bill passed the 112th Congress, I renew the request made in the petition to BLM dated September 13, 2010. Please convey and finalize the selections Sealaska made in its June 10, 2008 letter to BLM.

There is a difference between a delay and an obstruction of the legal process established by Congress to ensure land be transferred to Native Corporations.

BLM cannot pick and choose how it can enforce the ALTAA or ANCSA. The delay in finalization by BLM of Sealaska undermines the clear language of both ANCSA and ALTAA, which gives special treatment to Sealaska and none of the other Native Corporations.

In your reply, please confirm that BLM will begin the finalization of Sealaska's selection request dated June 10, 2008.

Sincerely yours,



Heather Richter, President
Edna Bay Community



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



OCT 15 2010

Ms. Heather Pichter
President, Edna Bay, Alaska
General Delivery
Edna Bay, Alaska 99950

Dear Ms. Pichter:

Thank you for your September 13, 2010, letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar requesting immediate conveyance of land to Sealaska Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Secretary Salazar has asked me to respond to your letter.

The Bureau of Land Management honors the responsibility of finalizing land entitlements and claims due Native corporations, Alaska Native individuals, and the State of Alaska under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA), the Native Allotment Act of 1906, the Alaska Native Veteran's Allotment Act of 1998, and the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959. Sealaska filed its final land selection on June 10, 2008, in compliance with the deadline set by the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act of 2004. In that letter, Sealaska requested that the BLM delay conveyance of remaining entitlements, pending the outcome of proposed federal legislation, S. 881 and H.R. 2099, the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act. The BLM has complied with the corporation's request.

I appreciate your concerns and the concerns of those who signed the September 13 letter. I assure you the timely conveyance of Sealaska's 85,000-acre entitlement is important to BLM, as is the conveyances of each remaining entitlement. We continue to work closely with our land transfer clients to balance remaining work and meet client priorities.

We sent a copy of your letter to Sealaska and placed another in our files. If you have additional questions please contact Ramona Chinn, Deputy State Director, Alaska Lands, at 907-271-3806.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Abbey
Director

cc:
Sealaska Corporation
One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 400
Juneau, AK 99801