



June 5, 2011

Dear Senator Wyden,

The Oregon State Shooting Sports Association works hard to promote the shooting sports, and defend the interests of gun owners. As the Official State Association of the National Rifle Association, we are active in all areas of Oregon, and represent a very broad constituency.

The Alaska Outdoor Council, a fellow NRA state association, is the state-wide sportsmen's federation for Alaska. The AOC has brought to our attention S.730 (the Sealaska Lands Bill). This bill is opposed by the AOC (please see attached letter). We echo their opposition and ask that you work to defeat this bill.

Hunter/shooters constitute a substantial portion of our membership. Our access to public sporting and recreational shooting lands are of paramount importance. Our values, activities and rights are harmed when the government improperly conveys public areas to interests who lock us out or impede our activities.

S.730 provides an unwarranted and unprecedented mass conveyance of premium public land areas all across Southeast Alaska to the Sealaska Native corporation. Sportsmen face the prospect of new no trespassing signs and no legal recourse to challenge their shutouts.

The AOC notes that Sealaska has a legitimate previously made land claim deal on file with the BLM that doesn't high grade prime fish and wildlife lands and critical public access areas in an irresponsible scatter-gun approach.

The lands in question are 'owned' by Oregon citizens in addition to our

friends in Alaska. They are federal public lands 'owned' by all American citizens. Their access, ownership and use for sportsmen and other responsible commercial, guiding, and resource interests must be strongly defended from bills like S.730.

Senator Wyden, thank you for your attention to this issue. Please share our comments and thoughts with your colleagues.

Stan Pate,

President

Oregon State Shooting Association