

Point Baker Community Association
PO Box 31
Point Baker, Alaska 99927

Senator Ron Wyden
Chair, Energy & Natural Resources Committee
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone 202-224-5244
FAX 202-228-2717

Dear Senator Wyden,

February 19th, 2013

The Point Baker Community Association on February 18th, 2013 discussed Senate Bill 340, the newly introduced Sealaska Lands Bill. By a unanimous vote of all council and members of the public in attendance it was decided that Point Baker would strongly oppose this latest lands legislation for the following reasons:

1. Point Baker will continue to stand with our neighbor communities in opposition to this bill without compromise.
2. We maintain that this bill is unnecessary, and divisive for Southeast residents. There is suitable land available within the original withholding areas to settle Sealaska's ANCSA land claims.
3. We continue to urge the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to convey, to Sealaska, the land within the withholding areas previously selected by them under the terms of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (ALTAA) as requested in a letter dated June 2008.
4. Point Baker residents are concerned that this bill, if passed, will negate years of planning which went into the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP).
5. Considering the importance of salmon to the Southeast Alaskan economy, we feel that this bill does not provide adequate protections for the salmon streams located in the economic development parcels; particularly in the Calder Bay selection with its fragile karst terrain.
6. The granting of access for subsistence activity 'as defined by Section 803 of ANILCA' is meaningless to the residents of Point Baker. Title 8 of ANILCA gives priority use to

rural residents on federal public land and does not apply to private property. In addition, the intended intensive logging of this land by Sealaska will not be compatible with subsistence hunting and fishing activities.

7. We will continue to oppose the Calder Bay selection because it is vital to the well-being and economy of Point Baker residents. Calder Creek is a major salmon producing stream and the entire Calder watershed is critical habitat for deer and other wildlife populations in this area.

Sincerely,

Dave Squibb
Chair, Pt. Baker Community Assn.