

July 18, 2011

Honorable Sean Parnell
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

On behalf of the nine undersigned SE Alaska towns, we would like to inform you of a critical error, we believe, in the May 24th Governor's Office letter signed by John Katz, on behalf of the State, addressed to Senator Wyden (who chaired the Public Lands Committee hearing) concerning the Sealaska Lands Bill, S 730 (HR 1408).

Mr. Katz's letter in the third paragraph stated that the lands currently available to Sealaska are "inadequate particularly for economic purposes." Third paragraph..."

The "lands currently available" referred to lands in the box Sealaska specifically asked Congress to delimit in 1975 through the testimony of Mr. Borbridge, their President. Sealaska asked to select these in the box lands in a letter to BLM in 2008.

We do not believe the in the box lands to be economically inadequate by any definition of inadequacy.

Therefore, we make two requests:

1. The State designate what timber volume per acre constitutes adequate economic lands; that is, are adequate economic lands the average timber volume per acre the Forest Service has sold in the last five years, which is about 25,000 board feet/acre? If not, what are the approximate board feet per acre the State considers adequate economically?
2. The State provide us with all the data it used when concluding the in the box lands which Sealaska selected in 2008 were inadequate. For instance, did the State look at the GIS ARC view 1997 TLMP data, did they do timber cruises, or did they base their analysis solely on the studies and representations of Sealaska? Just how did the State conclude the lands were inadequate?

It appears the Katz letter representing the State's position to Congress accepts the premises from Young's HR 1408 lain out below:

Sec. 3 (16) (B) (iii), states that the remaining ANCSA lands available for Sealaska to select in the box are inadequate.

The bill explicitly states the selection limitations in ANCSA make it difficult for Sealaska to select lands "that meets the real economic needs of the shareholders of Sealaska." Sec. 3 (16) (B) (iii)

Section A states "there is insufficient land remaining [in the box] ... to meet the ...socioeconomic needs of the shareholders of Sealaska."

We believe the average timber volume available in the box is at least equal to 25,000 board feet per Productive Old Growth acres the Forest Service has sold over the last five years in the area.

It is our view that if others can log 25,000 feet per Productive Old Growth acre economically, then the in the box lands meet the real economic needs for Sealaska's timber profits.

Governor, as leader of the State, we hope you send a new letter to Senator Wyden indicating that you have found out the lands in the box are adequate for Sealaska's needs, and BLM should make the final conveyance of lands Sealaska requested in its 2008 letter.

Sincerely,

The City of Thome Bay - *James H. Gould*

The City of Kupreanof - *David M. Beebe*

Edna Bay - *Heather Richter, President*

Cape Pole - *Carin S Richter Gregory P. Richter
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Hollis - *Budd Burnett, President, Hollis Community Council*

Naukati - *Candy Henspell
President, Naukati Bay Inc.*

Port Protection - *Judy Magnuson Port Protection, Secretary*

Pt. Baker - *Chairperson Roy Hoffmann Secretary - David Squibb
Vice Chair *[unclear]* Treasurer - Kristina Jackson*

Whale Pass - *Greg Cook WPCA Secretary*